



FR

December 2017

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS



*Merry
Christmas*

FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

December 2017

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Ven. Fr. Agnelo D'Souza

VEN. FR. AGNEL'S 149th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY ON SUNDAY, 21st JANUARY 2018

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

Programme

Special Novena Services

12th to 20th January 2018

Daily

Morning : 7.00 a.m. & 7.40 a.m. : Holy Mass and Novena 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.

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

N.B. : On Sunday, 14th January all Masses and Novena Services will be held as on normal Sundays.

21st January (Sunday) 149th Birth Anniversary of Venerable Fr. Agnelo

Morning : Masses followed by Prayers for favours in English and blessings with the Relic at 7.00 a.m, 8.00 a.m, 9.30 a.m, & 11.00 a.m (Tamil) (normal Masses in the morning as on Sundays).

Afternoon : 3.00 p.m. (Gujarati & Marathi Novena) & 3.30 p.m. (Marathi Mass).

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



Most Rev. Bishop Allwyn D'Silva
Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay will
be the Main Celebrant.

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. Agnelo.

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.

Bus No. : 211 : Special Bus Service to ply from
Bandra Railway Station to Fr. Agnel Ashram Gate.

IN SEARCH OF A GOSPEL, WHERE THE MILLIONS OF INDIA'S OPPRESSED HAVE A PLACE....

(A note of caution: this writing is not a theological study, but is a quest to find a meaning in the Gospel message of Jesus, to the millions in India, who are institutionally excluded and suffer oppression at all levels, in this life and in the next by the socially ordered tabu of their birth; it is an attempt to contextualize the Gospel that is God's message to the world, which is universal, eternal, and ever relevant. The views are entirely of the Author.)

Soon we will celebrate the announcement of the world's greatest News, the Good News, and the transforming reality that God loves man and that He is born among us, as one of us, so that He can lift us up and out of our limitations of nature, place and time.

In spite of the fact, that most of the world celebrates it in an entirely different fashion and the commercial interests have made the day and the season a veritable entertainment and a sales-pushing exercise, we can, in no way, ignore that Christmas, the birth of Jesus, is the world's most important historical event of meta historical (with an impact that goes beyond space and time) proportions that has permanently catapulted mortal man into immortality. There have been other traditions in many parts of the world, that have hinted at such a possibility, but none so clear, structured and irrevocable. I will not delve into specific conversations about many prevailing traditions that are marred with uncertainty and/or in multiple life cycles, which is not within the purview of this article.

The circumstances of the birth of Jesus defy all understanding and propriety. At His birth the Judaic tradition was breached, the human biological process was altered and the limits of human dignity that accompany the birth of any child were also challenged. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was asked to be the Mother of God, in an strange arrangement; Joseph,

the earthly Father of Jesus, was cajoled to accept a situation of birth totally contrary to both the social and religious dispensation!

That was only the beginning of a saga that grew only to become more intriguing, defiant of all norms and tragic at each step. Jesus has no place to be born (even the poor daily wager in the slums, has a humble hut, although pavement births are not rare in this rich country). And His birth brings us the strange company of the animals, and the most powerful message, for harmony among the many beings that make our world, and for nature conservation. And the story only becomes more confounding. The first folks who come to pay their obeisance are the shepherds who, by any standards in the prevailing society, were avoided both as thieves and exploiters in providing sacrificial lambs to the devotees at inflated rates, much like our modern day market sharks.

The big question is: Why does Jesus systematically defy the existing religious and human order of legitimacy of birth, of profession and of social hierarchy and acceptance. Is it merely coincidental and symbolic that Jesus is born in circumstances contrary to the accepted religious standards and into the most degraded human groups and in abject poverty situation? The answer lies in the public life of Jesus where at every step, He predicates the primacy of the poor,

the sinners, the social outcasts in the eligibility criteria for his Kingdom. The birth of Jesus in those circumstances is entirely in consonance with His life and teaching, and indeed there is nothing that even remotely points out to a contrary view.

Jesus Christ is God's most powerful message to the world, to all men and women of goodwill, even those who may never be able to know and hear it physically. The paradigm that Jesus presents is radical, because it demands of each of its followers (those who accept God's love), that their individual and collective identities be transformed, into such, namely, responding to the needs of the poor, the disadvantaged and the oppressed as the first priority. Let us not be tempted to subscribe that the pain and the deprivation of those poor millions is a result of some design of a strange God, as the Karma theorists would have us to do, but a direct result of the inability of those who have, to share, the inability to see their pain as a direct appeal to our sense of solidarity with our own, since we accept that God is our Father!

Our structures and our institutions, which are aligned with the rich and the powerful, and

enjoy security and recognition and have never even remotely suffered the ignominy of being socially and religiously rejected as unworthy of human dignity and salvation, as millions of Dalits and the downtrodden in our country, merely because of the circumstances of their birth, are we internally empowered to deal with the disempowered and the deprived; and if so, how can we?

How can we follow the Lord of the shepherds, the Lord of the tax collectors and sinners, the Lord who dealt with the prostitutes and Samaritans? What does it demand from us, what shall we have to shed, to be able to identify ourselves with the oppressed?

Let us not remove Jesus from his stable, the torn clothes, the animal stink that he has, so that we can place him in our cribs, Churches and the institutions. This Jesus is not accessible to hundreds of millions of Indians who live under the curse of Dalits, OBCs and Harijans. Does Christmas have a message for them too, and who will give it? and how?

-Jose Alarico Carvalho
alarc22@yahoo.co.in

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 Kissing 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.fragnel.edu.in>

Jesus is The Prince of Peace

-Leon Bent

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Is.9:6), called by many “the Fifth Gospel,” because his prophecies predict many aspects of the life of Jesus. Additionally, Isaiah’s name means “Yahweh is Salvation.”

Unfortunately, the very place where Jesus lived and taught, Palestine, is in total shambles, with heinous, barbarous, diabolical and cold-blooded acts of the Israeli police and army. Even little children are sometimes shot dead! The Palestinians are considered humanity’s dregs by Zionists. A reign of terror began with “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people,” after Israel became an independent nation in 1948, out of nowhere, when the world overlooked Palestinian blood-and-soil nativism. Truly, the “Word of God-made-flesh” will transform this “cauldron of complexities!” There is consolation in the theme of the Book of Revelation—the time of the end of the age and the return of Jesus Christ, will establish God’s Kingdom of peace and goodwill on earth.

On the other hand, anti-Semitic and xenophobic movements have not disappeared from Europe after the liberation of Auschwitz. The Evil One’s fingerprints and footfalls are still felt in some Eastern European countries and other fascist places in the world. Again, we take recourse to Isaiah 11:6: “The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion feed together; and a little child will lead them”. Innocence and peace will rule the world one day. However, take note that Mark 1:15 reports Jesus saying: “The Kingdom of God has already come.”

Daesh, the Taliban and other Islamic terror groups are a combination of hazily defined radical ideologists and ruthless fundamentalists, who have unleashed unchecked, brutal anarchy

in places mentioned in Sacred Scripture, the early Christians and ancient Christianity. We are living through a sudden rush of agonizing and traumatic history; Satan’s drama and theatrics! How many more deaths, by the thousand, will it take for peace and harmony to flourish again? In this era of disruption and bilious outrage, will peace ever come about? This question evokes quivering concern and was once too ludicrous to contemplate.

How will Jesus justify his being called the Prince of Peace? What does it mean? Paul describes how Christ actually goes about it. And this is a wonderful picture for us of how peace can reign in any area of conflict or hostility, whether among individuals or groups or nations. Paul offers wholesome peace, which is unlike a preposterous fig leaf for street-level, despicable, reprehensive authoritarianism and radicalisation.

The word peace is mentioned thrice in Ephesians 2:13-18: In three occurrences of the word peace, you have the apostle’s outline of how Christ makes peace possible. He is our peace -- that is the origin of peace! Second, the process of peace is expressed - how it is actually brought about -- he came and made peace. Finally, there is the means of laying hold or possessing that peace -- he preached peace.

If you are in conflict with anybody -- whether it is in your home, at your work place, in your neighbourhood, in the Church, or in the world, this is the way of peace. This is the secret of peace. This is the key to peace. First, the origin of peace: “He is our peace, who has made us both one.” Paul starts with a definition of what true peace really is. True peace is oneness. It is not merely the cessation of hostility, the absence of conflict; it means “being one”. This is very important!

My son and daughter-in-“love” took my wife, Lorraine and I deep into the Dubai desert, at mid-night. There was nothing but intense

darkness and countless twinkling stars and a full moon to greet us. The melieu was filled with simplicity, gentleness, serenity, silence. I found myself standing alone in awe, wonder and ecstasy at the mystery and the mysticism of the moment. And, in a thrice, I was transported into the all-embracing arms of the Great Beloved! An incredible, throbbing peace and intimacy filled my very being! This fleeting time was nuanced with subtleties that, gave me a global mandate: Become a peacemaker!

The apostle discloses the secret of peace: Oneness is a Person: "He is our peace." And when Christ Jesus makes peace -- between individuals or between nations -- that peace will be a satisfying, permanent, and genuine peace; more aptly, Shalom, nothing-broken-nothing-missing, fullness! It will be genuine Godly peace that will last forever. And it will be a totally satisfying experience. What Paul is saying is that to live at peace, you must have peace in your heart. The problem with most of us is that we want to start by clearing up only the results of conflict. God never starts there; he begins with the person. He says peace is a Person, and for you to live at peace with someone, you must be at peace within, in union with the Person of Christ. If you have his peace, then you can start solving the conflict/s around you. However, the place to start, the origin of peace, is the settling of division between you and Jesus Christ. That is always the starting point!

The apostle Paul adds, "And he came and preached peace to you who were far off, and to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father (Eph. 2:17-18).

There is nothing higher than this. When the full splendour of this relationship breaks upon us, we will have discovered that nothing can be greater. "This is eternal life," Jesus said, "that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you hast sent," (John 17:3), in the power of the Spirit.

When the birth of Jesus was announced: The choir of angels sang: "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory" (Isa. 6:3). No words more magnificent have ever been uttered. Luke 2:14 is more precise: "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to men of goodwill."

And, finally, this reassurance: Right from Genesis to Revelation, Jesus is our Salvation and Prince of Peace!

Now, this gold nugget: Christmas is not only a

sparkling remembrance of the promises and prophesies of salvation and eternal bliss, which began at the Incarnation. Each Christmas also anticipates the challenging Second Coming, when Jesus Christ will return to earth, to defeat evil and establish His eternal reign of justice, mercy, harmony, love and peace.

The final flourish! Celebrate with gay abandon and cheer these two realities this Christmas!

The problem with most of us is that we want to start by clearing up only the results of conflict. God never starts there; he begins with the person. He says peace is a Person, and for you to live at peace with someone, you must be at peace within, in union with the Person of Christ.

**When you go into a house, say,
'Peace be with you.'**

-Matthew 10:12

Peace and Joy of Christmas

-P.A. D'Mello

Christmas is the time for caring, sharing, peace, joy and goodwill. It is a divine gift offered to all people of goodwill. The story of Christmas 2000 year ago is still the Christmas of today. A gift of love, peace and joy.

Every Christmas we are also reminded of God's unconditional love for us. God so loved the world that He gave us His only son Jesus Christ. To His disciples, Jesus gave a new commandment "To love one another as I have loved you"(Jn.13:34). We should, therefore, celebrate this great season of Christmas with love, by welcoming Jesus into our hearts and proclaiming His message of peace, goodwill and love with everyone.

In the celebration of this great festival of peace and love, we come face to face with the most essential, the most beautiful and the most worthy of our dedication, that is, the birth of Jesus.

The period preceding this great event is marked with hectic preparations, which culminate in the large gathering at the Eucharist at midnight. It is so wonderful to note the peace and happiness all around us during yuletide. If only this peace and happiness could be more lasting, more permanent in our lives as at yuletide. It is the time of many gifts; and the greatest of these gifts is Christmas itself which brings us all together to rejoice in our common joys and cares.

From the rest of the year we seem to be trapped in our own hectic lives, with no time for friends, the neighbours, the poor and the marginalized. Let us not forget what the Bible says: "If you do this to the least of my brethren you do this to me."

Many a time we fail to notice the poor and the needy around us, who could be helped or guided without much cost in terms of time and money. Can we not pause to help the least of our brethren who needs assistance rather than shrugging him away?

The Christmas message is a message of universal love and peace. The world longs for peace. There can be no peace without the Prince of Peace. One who asks for peace has to accept the terms of peace. After all, one of the foundations of peace is brotherliness and this can be a reality only by bringing people of different races, castes, creeds, classes and culture to realize that they are all members of the same great human family and therefore, the good of all is contained in the good of each other.

However, when we look around today we find that violence, terrorism, intolerance and religious fundamentalism are still prevalent in India and many parts of the world. Efforts, we understand, are being made by various Governments and interested parties to bring about peaceful settlements, but it is a fragile tenuous peace that does not hold. The peace the world talks of is not the peace Jesus offers: "Peace I leave with you my peace I give you. I do not give peace to you as the world gives." (Jn.14:27)

During this holy season of Christmas let us all pray for peace, love and harmony amongst all nations and especially in our own country which has seen a lot of untoward violence, intolerance and terrorism over the past few months.

"I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year."

-Charles Dickens

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

IEEE 2017 International Conference on Advances in Computing, Communication and Control (ICAC3 '17) 5th Edition

The 5th edition of the biennial International Conference on Advances in Computing Communication and Control was inaugurated on 1st December 2017 at 10.00 am. The inaugural function was blessed by Rev. Fr. Peter D'Souza, Fr. Superior, and Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Director, **Fr. Agnel Technical Complex, Bandra**. Prof. R. K. Shevgaonkar, IIT Bombay, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mr. Vishal Mehrotra, Global Head, Open Source Solutions, TCS Ltd., was the Guest of Honor. Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan, Principal, welcomed the gathering and gave a brief overview of the history and the vision of the Institute. Dr. S K Surve, General Chair, explained the scope of the Conference and the review process of the papers. Dr. H. A. Mangalvedekar,

Programme Chair, gave his perspective of the need for development of smart processes and systems. Dr. Shevgaonkar appreciated the coverage of the Conference and enlightened the audience about the conflicting merits and demerits of cyber space and physical space. He also emphasized on the contribution of social scientists in defining problems and the technologist's responsibility to obtain solutions for the same. The Conference Souvenir was released by the dignitaries on the dais. Dr. D. V. Bhoir, Conference Chair, gave a Vote of Thanks.

The inaugural session was followed by the Keynote Address by Mr. Vishal Mehrotra, TCS, on the theme 'The increasing importance



Chief Guest, Prof. R. K. Shevgaonkar addressing the gathering



The Conference Souvenir being released by the dignitaries

of Multi-disciplinary Research'. Later, technical paper presentations and deliberations were held at three parallel venues, assigned for various topics. Video conferencing facility was extended to the Authors, who could not attend the Conference. All the presented papers will be



The audience of ICAC3-2017



Keynote Address by Mr. Vishal Mehrotra, Global Head, Open Source Solutions, TCS Ltd.

uploaded on the IEEE Explore Digital Library. The Guests, Session chairs, Authors and delegates appreciated the organization of the Conference and the associated arrangements.

Solemn celebrations of Fr. Agnel's Day at Agnel Ashram

Age-old devotees thronged Agnel Ashram throughout the day on the 20th of November on the occasion of Fr. Agnel's Death Anniversary. Masses and novena prayers in English, Konkani, Marathi and Gujarati were offered for the early canonization of Fr. Agnel. There was a solemn concelebrated Mass celebrated in the evening with Auxillary Bishop Barthol Barreto as the main celebrant and a sizeable number of devotees on a specially erected stage in the parking bay of Agnel Ashram. The Mass was preceded by a short but beautifully choreographed programme by the girl students of Fr. Agnel School, Ambernath and a traditional Brass Band welcome by the boys of Fr. Agnel Bal Bhavan. Fr. Valerian D'souza, the Director of Fr. Agnel

Ashram welcomed the Bishop and devotees to the spiritual precincts of Agnel Ashram. The devotees were seen to enjoy every bit of the evening programme, especially the Bishop's stirring homily at the Mass. The Bishop, Barthol Barreto was highly appreciative of the solemnity and gaiety with which Fr. Agnel's Day was celebrated. He had a special word of appreciation for the students and teachers of Fr. Agnel's School, Ambernath, especially the choir under the baton Fr. Senato from the Mumbai Province. The Ashram Community later hosted a dinner for the Bishop and priests especially of Bandra deanery thus culminating an eventful day in honour of our Blessed Ven. Fr. Agnel.

VEN.FR. AGNELO'S MI



The entrance procession Bishop Barthol Barretto along with the Clergy



Rev.Fr.Peter D'Souza Felicating Bishop Barthol Barretto with Bouquet of flowers



Bishop Bathol Barretto celebrating the Eucharist



Rev.Fr.John Alme



Fr. Agnel School, Ambernath, Choir



A Vote of Thanks by Fr.Randall Barretto

ERROR OF COMPASSION



th a

A prayer dance performed by Fr. Agnel School, Ambernath



Rev. Fr. Peter D'Souza giving a welcome speech



ida proclaiming the word of GOD



Bishop Bathol Barretto delivers his Homily



The faithful participating in the Eucharist

Fr. Agnel School, Vashi Received Top School Award

At the Hindustan Times Top Schools Conclave held on 13th November 2017, **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Vashi, Navi Mumbai**, was once again recognised as one of the best 50 schools in Mumbai City and suburbs. This award function marked the culmination of the ninth edition of Hindustan Times Top Schools Survey.



Mrs. Vijaya Vaithilingam and Mrs. Kulvinder Kaur attended the function and received the award on behalf of the School.

Prayer service on the demise of Fr. Orlando Rodrigues

A prayer service was held to pay respect to Rev. Fr. Orlando Rodrigues in **Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune**. The Management alongwith teaching and non-teaching Staff of Vidyankur School attended it with heavy and sorrowful hearts.

Rev. Fr. Peter D'souza recalled Fr. Orlando's immense zealous, powerful contribution to the society and his glorious influence on the minds that surrounded him. Rev. Fr. Peter D'Souza, and Rev. Fr. Agnel Gomes paid homage by offering prayers and flowers.



Fr. Gomes paying homage to Fr. Orlando.

Joy Of Giving

'Joy of Giving Day' was celebrated on 20th Nov. 2017 on the occasion of **Fr. Agnel's Day at Vidyankur School, Pune**, to inculcate the value of compassion, sharing and caring in the young minds. The students read the

Scriptures highlighting the importance of giving and presented a musical skit on the life of Ven. Fr. Agnelo. Rev. Fr. Gomes, the Director, in his Address, emphasized that we must all learn to give till it hurts. The Cultural Ministry



Musical skit on life of Ven. Fr. Agnelo.



Rep. of Louis Braille Sanstha accepting grains collected from students.



through a skit on 'Joy of Giving' emphasised on the joy that a person gets through the divine act of giving. The school President and Speakers handed over the grains collected by the students to the representatives of N.G.O's like

H.O.P.E, Snehalaya, Louis Braille Sanstha and Fr. Agnel Ashram. Mst. Vithal of Louis Braille Sanstha thanked the students for their help and explained about the good work done by their institute for blind students like him.

Sr. Mangala accepting grains on behalf of H.O.P.E foundation.

Report on Grand Parents Day 2017-2018

The Pre-Primary section of **Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune**, celebrated the Grand Parents Day in school on Saturday, 14th October 2017. Grandparents were given a warm welcome by all the Staff and students. Different programmes were presented, keeping in mind the Theme of the Year, 'Being Clean Living Clean'. The tiny tots of Nursery danced to the music. The LKG & UKG performed small skits and dances based on Cleanliness and

emphasised on the importance on Swacch Bharat. Grandparents were enthralled by the performances of their grandchildren. Fun games were organised for grandparents. The Grandparents appreciated the School, the teachers and thanked the Management and Staff for organising such a wonderful programme and making them feel so important and special. Diwali sweets were distributed to all on this occasion.



Emphasis on Swacch Bharat.



Token of Love.

Agnelites explore Rajasthan...

Fr. Agnel, Ambernath Agnelites were all set to visit the 'Place of Rajput Warriors' – the fascinating State – Rajasthan, on the 25th October 2017.

A big group of 150 students with 12 teachers spent 8 days on touring and exploring the places in Rajasthan, which was a mesmerizing experience.

Our beautiful journey started by visiting 'The Blue City' – Jodhpur. It is home to the most staggering fortresses one may ever see. The impressive and formidable structure of

'Mehrangarh Fort' dominates the city. Its rich intricate carvings and lavish colourful courtyards

left us spell-bound.

The Machia Biological Park gave each one of us the pleasure to experience nature's marvel.

The Umaid Bhavan Palace, a sand stone structure, captures all the opulence of the erstwhile rulers of Rajasthan. It is one of the world's largest royal private residences to-date.

Nayi Sarak is a popular market place famous for its traditional tie-and-dye fabric. Flashy cloth materials with beautiful patterns and designs caught the eye of every passerby. We enjoyed shopping here and carried mementos back home.

The dance session at Hotel Madhuram Royale

was indeed a great treat for the eyes. We all joined in and grooved to the beats of Rajasthani Folk music .

With wonderful memories, we embarked towards our next destination – Udaipur, which offered us a warm welcome through its magnificent palaces, lakes and temples.

A visit to the Maharana Pratap Memorial was an exhilarating experience. The life-size bronze statue of Maharana Pratap with his horse, Chetak, shone bright under the sun.... The boat ride, thereafter, at the Fateh Sagar Lake was a joyful experience.

On our way back, we relished the traditional mouth-watering Rajasthani Thali.

The serene outlook of the Lake Palace and the ornamental decorations and architecture of the Jagdish Temple were worth visiting.

After a day's long touring and sight-seeing, though tired, we all were charged up at the DJ session in the evening at 'Hotel Cambay' in Udaipur.

With so much to learn and see, our hearts were filled with beautiful memories. We headed

towards 'The Paradise of Rajasthan' – Mount Abu, where we visited the Dilwara Temple, which showcased the highly developed aesthetic and artistic sense of craftsmanship of the 11th and 13th century AD.

The cool evening was lit up with lamps on the lawn where we all sat and watched an outstanding puppet show and had a sumptuous meal at Hotel Palanpur Palace.

The following day, a visit was arranged to the Oasis of the desert-Guru shikhar, the highest Peak on the Aravali Range.

A visit to the serene and quiet place – Peace Park brought a sense of fulfillment and peace within us.

A last minute shopping in the alleys of the Nakki lake which is the highest artificial lake in India 1200 m above the sea level, was the best part of our tour. How we yearned for more!

We started our onward journey. Aamchi Mumbai welcomed us back on 1st November.... we returned home with fond memories of Rajasthan and were eagerly waiting to share our wonderful experience with our loved ones.

Photos on inside back cover

Food Fiesta

Food Fiesta 2017 was organized by **Fr. Agnel Institute of Food Crafts and Culinary Sciences Verna, Goa**. On this day, the Institute showcases the culinary labs and skills of the students and the Faculty to the students and Staff of the entire Agnel Technical Education Complex. Food Fiesta, this year conceptualized cuisines such as Italian, Chinese, Indian, and Goan, making various food items, such as BBQ Chicken Pizza, Veggie Delight Pizza, Pasta Alfredo, Pasta Arabiadta, Chicken Lollipop, Chicken Spring Roll, Gobi Manchurian, Chicken

Schezwan , Kebab Wrap, Chicken Cafreal Wrap, Paneer Wrap.

From the Beverage section and the skilled Bar-tending Course students, a variety of mocktails namely GSTea, Pina Minto were prepared, garnished and served to the guests.

Bakery and Patisserie Course students made a lovely display of a variety of cookies, cakes, cold desserts etc. which were sold out from their display counter.

Photos on back cover

“I am with you alway,
even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

-Matthew 28:20



Memoirs of the Stable

-Arthur D'Mello

I may not be birch or elm but ordinary teak
But destined in the annals of history to peak
When the Virgin birth came true, I was the historic home
first venue
For the Divine Babe.

For one starry, cold and winter night
A young couple came without looking left or right
The reason for their haste and activity flurry
Was that the Lady in travail was in a mighty hurry
For the arrival of the Divine Babe.

Soon His first wail to this world was rent
The air was full with celestial music and scent
Glory to God on high/peace to men of good will
The ethereal light and sound fitted the bill
The Divine Babe had come.

Soon a group of ordinary shepherds came to see
Their curiosity aroused by the angelic bid of glee
A tale prophesied far and wide for time some
Of a Virgin birth and a Saviour to come
The Divine Babe had now come.

This event had its rumble in the East for
By the arrival of a huge bright Shining Star
Which provoked 3 kings to visit the sight
And true to tradition rendered their might
To the Divine Babe.

True and total obeisance, on bended knee did they lift
Proffering gold, myrrh and frank-incense as gift
And when in a dream they were warned king Herod to
scoot

They returned home by another route
For the sake of the Divine Babe.

Children

-Sandra Kay

Children, a gift of God, on earth nonpareil,
To make all our joys, more deeply feel;
With their tiny fists and their perfect
tho' tiny toes,

Making us forget all our woes
And believe, that we in our arms,
Are cradling a miracle-
That nothing in this world so fickle
Can hold a candle to.

It is a pleasure to see them grow
Take their first steps and lisp out their
first words;
Fulfilling, to teach them the love and fear
of God,

Mingled with a sense of fun;
And a reverence for the Word.
They keep our spirits up and make us laugh
And help us face mockers that scoff
At any hint of excellence.
All too soon, we have to untie the apron
strings,

And to fly the nest, give them wings;
At peace, in the hope, that God in His
mercy
Will their paths oversee,
So that goodness will grow
Like ripples in the stream.





Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

BLESSINGS & FAVOURS RECEIVED

U.S.A. : I am a firm devotee of Ven.Fr.Agnel and I have received many blessings and favours through his heavenly intercession before God. I am now well settled in the U.S.A. I wish to express my thanks to Ven. Fr.Agnel with an offering of 500 U.S. Dollars.

-Reshmi Thomas

BRIGHT ACADEMIC CAREER

Santacruz: I am an ex-student of Fr. C. Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra. By the blessings of Ven. Fr.Agnel I had a bright academic career and I passed out with high grade in Information Technology. I also got a very good campus placement with a reputed city Bank. As a token of my profound gratitude and homage an offering of ₹.10,000 to the Shrine of Ven.Fr.Agnel from my first salary.

-Neha Sara Jose

CURED OF LEG WOUND

Moirra-Goa: My husband had a wound on his leg which would not heal. He consulted many doctors and took the necessary medication but this did not help him in any way. This continued for over 3 years. One doctor would say that the infected vein had to be removed and another would say there was no need to do it. Finally we prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnelo with great faith for his healing touch. We are now happy to say that Ven.Fr.Agnelo heard our prayers and he is completely alright. My heartfelt thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnelo.

-Fatima Tavares

CURED OF UTERUS AND BACK PAIN

Sanpada: I was suffering from Uterus and

Back Pain for the past five years. Although I was under medication I did not get any relief. Last year when I came to the Ashram during the Bandra Fair, I prayed fervently to Ven.Fr.Agnel to place his healing touch on me. I am now happy to inform you that I have been completely cured of the illness. With a grateful heart an offering of ₹.500 to the Ashram.

-Manuel D'Souza

PRAYERS REWARDED

Vikhroli: I was praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel to bless me with a good house after my retirement from service. Through the blessings of Ven.Fr.Agnel I got a suitable house in a good locality. I was facing some difficulty in getting my P.F. dues. Here again I sought the intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel and without any problem I received all my dues. My sincere thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel with an offering of ₹.1000.

-T.E. Xavier

RECOVERY AFTER MAJOR ACCIDENT

Majorda-Goa : My daughter met with a near fatal accident. Her head and whole body were badly injured. She was in the ICU and the doctors had given up hope for her recovery. In fact the doctors gave her only 24 hours to survive. At that moment I put forth my plea to Ven.Fr.Agnel and prayed to Jesus to heal my daughter. I resolved to make five Thursday Novenas at Pilar. Hardly I completed the third Novena than my daughter regained consciousness and now she is completely alright. My heartfelt thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel and I pray for his early beatification.

-Luis Gonzago Fernandes

SECURED JOB ON THE SHIP

Bhayandar : My son Vishal who was working abroad in a Hotel left his job and returned home. He was anxious to get a good job on board the ship. As he did not receive any call for many months, I was under a lot of tension. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel and promised to do the Novena for 9 Sundays. After a few days of making the promise, my son got a call for a job on the ship. My grateful thanks to Ven. Fr.Agnel with an offering of ₹.1000.

-Claudette Ludes Rodricks

RECOVERY FROM KIDNEY AILMENT

Salcette-Goa : Our Dad had Kidney ailment and was suffering from other complications. We consulted many doctors and he was under their medication but there was no improvement. He was unable to get up or sit down and his speech was slurred and unintelligible. In this panic situation we

prayed fervently to Ven.Fr.Agnel to place his healing touch on our Dad. We are now happy to say that his health has improved and he is feeling much better. Our sincere thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel for this great favour.

-Santana Fernandes

GIFT OF SON AFTER 10 YEARS

Mulund : My son was issueless even after 10 years of marriage. Although he was under medication by specialist doctor, it did not bring any hope in his life. They were very upset and leading a desperate life. In this predicament I initiated 9 Sundays Novena to Ven.Fr.Agnel and fervently prayed for his blessing upon my son. I am now extremely happy to inform you that through the intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel my son has been blessed with a son. Today I have come to the Ashram to give my thanks offering of ₹.1000 to Ven.Fr.Agnel

-Shital Dighamber Vaghmare

THE JOY OF GIVING



Letters from some Benefactors and Friends of
our Balbhavan Children

Jessy Menezes, Mangalore

I am enclosing cheque of ₹.2000 for the benefit of the orphans under your care. Please pray for us, especially that I am cured of my illness and get back my normal health.

Sreelekha Joy, Kerala

I enclose a cheque of ₹.5,000 for your charitable works. Please remember us in your prayers, especially for my daughters, Nanda and Namitha to do well in their studies and for success of the marriage of my nephew Ajit S.R.

Jessy Dionatius, Kerala

Enclosed is a cheque of ₹.6,000 for the

maintenance and education of the orphans. Please pray for our family, especially that my elder daughter gets a good proposal and a job and my second daughter to do well in her studies and have a good career.

Pushpa Ravindra Surati, Canada

Please accept our donation of ₹.2,000 for the orphan boys in your Balbhuvan. Kindly pray for us.

M.N. D'Cruz, Malaysia

Enclosed is a D/D for ₹.3,000 as my thanks offering to Ven.Fr.Agnel for favours received through his intercession. Kindly remember our family in your prayers.

Out of Their Bounty

P. Srivastava	Mumbai	200000	Mary V. D'Souza	Virar	1500	P. Green	Mumbai	500
Sanjay K. Bhatt	Navi Mumbai	50000	G.J. Parakal	Kerala	1400	P. Shetty	Mumbai	500
Thelma D'Souza	Mumbai	24000	A. Augustie	Kerala	1200	T. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
Bejon Desai Fdn	Nashik	12000	A.J. Japee	Vasai	1117	J. Carvalho	Mumbai	500
Cyprian D'Souza	Mumbai	10000	D. Alphonso	Mumbai	1000	A.B. Ubale	Navi Mumbai	500
T.V. Antony	Mumbai	10000	H. Mahesh	Mumbai	1000	A.A. Desai	Surat	500
Joseph Johy	Mumbai	9000	Preeti Vyas	Mumbai	1000	H. Prajapati	Mumbai	500
S.M. E.DeSilva	Goa	9000	O. Dabre	Vasai	1000	Dr.S.R. Patel	Mumbai	500
B.r. D'Souza	Mumbai	9000	M.Rodricks	Mumbai	1000	R.N. Lemos	Vasai	500
Gilbert Menezes	Singapore	9000	K.R. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	P.D. Ligam	Mumbai	500
Heather Ainsley	Australia	8224	Carol B. Coutiho	Vasai	1000	M.N. Patel	U.K.	500
P. Fernandes	umbai	6000	J.s. Makasare	Nashik	1000	C.A. Cardozo	Mumbai	500
J. Dionatius	Kerala	6000	A. Mistry	Thane	1000	Kurian thomas	Kerala	500
Suramaniam R.	Mumbai	5000	Jacintha D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	B. Kotak	Gujarat	500
S. Mekat	Kerala	5000	J. Murikkan	Kerala	1000	Enicia D'Souza	Thane	500
J. Kunumpuram	Kerala	5000	Ancy Antony	Kerala	1000	G. Veeramani	Chennai	500
A.E. Moniz	Bastora	5000	P. Oberoi	Delhi	1000	K. S. Rao	Mumbai	500
P.J. Ferreira	Vai	5000	Darab B. Fdn	Mumbai	1000	L. Antony	Kerala	500
M. McCarron	Mumbai	5000	P.T. Thomas	Kerala	1000	P.A. Daruwalla	Mumbai	500
S. Joy	Kerala	5000	G. Rana	Thane	1000	K.C. Wadia	Mubai	500
L. Antony	Kerala	5000	Anil Macwan	Gujart	1000	T. D'Souza	Mumbai	500
K.B. Master	Mumbai	5000	S. Philip	Mumbai	1000	C. Almeida	Vasai	500
F. Quadros	Mumbai	5000	S. Gandhi	Mumbai	1000	J. Noronha	Mumbai	500
J.M. Rodrigues	Vasai	5000	V.Karani	Mumbai	1000	E. D'Souza	Kalyan	500
A. George	Delhi	3300	S. Varghese	Kerla	1000	D. Kumar	Mumbai	500
J. Patrick	Mumbai	3000	P. Pereira	Vasai	1000	P. Pinto	Thane	500
Z.J. Bharucha	Vasai	3000	R.H. Mathos	Vasai	1000	L. Rodrigues	Vasai	500
N.R. Martin	Mumbai	3000	M. Jose	Kerala	1000	J.S. Almeida	Vasai	500
A.Muller	Mumbai	3000	V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000	M.d. D'Mello	Vasai	500
Suresh M.	Mumbai	3000	Vincent D'Souza	Naigaon	1000	R.G. Roth	Mumbai	500
J.S. Fernandes	Mumbai	2700	Clara Fernandes	Dubai	1000	Salu Fernandes	Thane	500
K.J. Menezes	Vasai	2500	P. Benjamin	Mumbai	1000	J.K. Swamy	Mumbai	500
B. Fargose	Nallasopara	2500	W. Saldanha	Mumbai	1000	S.D. Goncalves	Vasai	500
J.K. Manjali	Kerala	2500	K.R. Mendal	Mumbai	1000	P. D'Costa	Mumbai	500
P. Solanki	U.K.	2114	Dr.C.K. Shu	Mumbai	1000	E.M. Ambroe	Gujarat	500
C.R. D'Souza	Bhayandar	2111	M. Hastings	Vasai	1000	P.A. Dass	Pune	500
Yash Vora	Mumbai	2000	B.G. Carvalho	Vasai	1000	A.A. Dass	Pune	500
s. Gomes	Nallasopara	2000	S. Fernandes	Udupi	1000	A. Patel	Mumbai	500
C. Devisser	Mumbai	2000	H. Fernandes	Bhayandar	1000	A. amana	Dombivli	500
S. Condillac	Mumbai	2000	E. Appu	Mumbai	1000	M. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
A. Samuel	Kerala	2000	Rosy Joy	Mira Road	1000	Aaron & Rueben	Navi Mumbai	500
Jessy Menezes	Mangalore	2000	M. S. Pereira	Nallasopara	1000	S.U. Gaikwad	Mumbai	500
H. Wilson	Australia	2000	R. V. D'Souza	Virar	1000	P.P. Francis	Kalyan	400
W. Quadros	Navi Mumbai	2000	S.J. Lobo	Mumbai	1000	Ishwar J. Attara	Mumbai	400
M. D'Silva	Mumbai	2000	Felix Pinto	Mumbai	1000	Olive D'Souza	Mumbai	400
Kevin D'Siva	Mumbai	2000	S.A.M. Chettiar	Mumbai	800	D. Premnath	Mumbai	400
Joyce Fernandes	Mumbai	2000	H. Miranda	Mumbai	750	A.J. Macwan	Gujarat	300
J.J. Puthore	Mumbai	2000	A.O. King	Mumbai	750	J. Dias	Mumbai	300
J.A. Doshi	Mumbai	2000	G.P. Fonseca	Mumbai	750	J. Cherian	Kerala	300
J. Lobo	Mumbai	2000	Luiza Pereira	Naigaon	750	T. Joseph	Kerala	300
George, Jovanna	Mumbai	2000	A.A. Texons	Mumbai	600	M.D. Gandhi	Virar	280
R. Napoleon	Mumbai	2000	R. D'Costa	Mumbai	578	N.E. Kavoov	Kerala	200
J. Jacob	Thakurli	2000	M.F. D'Souza	Mumbai	510	C. Jonah	Kolkata	200
D.L. Lopes	Vasai	2000	D. Bhangera	Thane	505	Elsy Francis	Kerala	200
A. Lobo	Mumbai	1500	P.R. Bhingardev	Sangli	501	Agnel Vincent	Kerala	200
A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	S.R. Parmar	Gujarat	500	V. Pereira	Pune	200
			J. Desai	Valsad	500			

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A Pose for you all



A visit to Jagdish Temple in UDAIPUR



Anxious to explore Mehrangarh Fort - JODHPUR.



Enjoying the Rajasthani delicacies at Hotel Cambay in UDAIPUR.



Enjoying the mini cruise at Lake Fatehsagar in UDAIPUR



Go Green in A visit to Machia Biological Park - JODHPUR



Lesson Learnt in Live Life King Size - Umed Bhavan - JODHPUR



The brave heart memorial Maharana Pratap in UDAIPUR

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Agnel Ashram Community &
Balbhavan Children wish



MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

to all our Friends,
Benefactors and well-wishers