



FR

January 2017

# AGNEL

**SHRAM NEWS**



HAPPY NEW YEAR

FR. AGNEL  
ASHRAM

# NEWS

January 2017

## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Editorial                                 | 3  |
| Sayings of Fr. Agnelo                     | 5  |
| The Price for the Prize                   | 6  |
| Count Your Blessings<br>This New Year     | 7  |
| Heaven is a State<br>of our Consciousness | 8  |
| Agnel Happenings                          | 9  |
| Joy of Giving                             | 15 |
| Fr. Agnel's Blessings                     | 16 |
| Balbhuvan Miracle                         | 17 |
| Out of their Bounty                       | 18 |

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**Ven. Fr. Agnelo**  
**Pray for Us**

## VEN. FR. AGNELO D'SOUZA'S 148TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY ON SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY 2017

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

### PROGRAMME

### SPECIAL NOVENA SERVICE

Daily

*12th to 20th January 2017*

**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 15th Janaury 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 and blessings with the Relic at 6.30, 7.15, 8.00 in English.

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



**Most Rev. Percival Fernandez**  
**(Emeritus 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.  
Tel : 67114000

Bus No. : 211 : Special Bus Service to Ply From Bandra Railway Station to Fr. Agnel Ashram Gate.

# AUTHORITY AND SERVICE

## WHAT COMES FIRST?!?

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Recent election results in the United States of America have baffled millions of Americans and no less millions of others around the world? Why has the unexpected rise of Donald Trump to be the President of the world's most powerful nation, filled millions of people with frustration and despondency even to the extent of wondering what American democracy is all about. Many have said that the American people deserve that, because they are arrogant, selfish and generally unconcerned about what happens around them. It is partly true that the rest of the world, why, Americans themselves do not know what is happening around the country.

A recent study threw up this shocking fact that almost 50% of Americans do not have 400 dollars in their hands in an emergency. Shocking it is, and could well be true, because the study is well documented. It is because the perceived American dream is largely a phantom. America is a country that is militarily powerful because for decades large amounts have been invested in building up its military might, which is largely an obsession that the more powerful you are, the more people will fear you. The arms build up that destroyed both the American and Russian economies for good was the result of that mindset. It is also because arms manufacturing and its world wide sales is also the bedrock of American economy. And significantly the knowledge and the awareness of military might itself is one of the major causes of the rampant poverty that ails America. Military might is more like pornography; it feeds your imagination and completely blinds you to an imaginary reality. Americans largely believed in the larger than life picture of their Country little noticing what ails their fundamentals, namely their grossly unequal distribution of wealth.

Although Democrats have been largely globalists, and have been more concerned about fellow

Americans, they were also more preoccupied with the image of America that the world believed and so ended up paying less attention to its pains. Obama was perhaps an abnormality in this sense, who somehow wanted to address at least one part of the pain and introduced Obama care, but his rise to the White House, also threw that deeply embedded racist streak of white Americans. In their hearts they never wanted him to succeed and he faced that all of his 8 years of Presidency. Nobody could miss it, he himself talks about his experiences in his "Advocacy of Hope", and at some stage he also pandered to that American idea that all is well.

Trump unfortunately is the result of all that American should not have, and the world believes it does not have too. The world believes that Americans are not racists, not isolationists, not stupid – all of which is wrong. Please pardon me the word again ( it is p.....phy of power). Power blinds you completely and makes you indifferent, insensitive and incapable to act differently. I wonder how much will Obama be able to keep his quiet in the face of what is likely to happen now. It will be an interesting period, nay could even be tragic!

I am going to surprise you with what I am going to say next. This attitude that catapulted Trump to power is not the problem of Americans and Trump. Power has always corrupted, blinded, reduced good people into tyrants, unwieldy and stupid. Look what happened during the Renaissance and thereafter to everybody, including the Church leadership and even the Religious life. It was infested with things of all kinds, ugly, vicious and tragic. Triumphalism is the easiest slide into perdition. And this is not a thing of the past.

Pope Francis decided to address it radically both with symbolism of his living style with the power of his simplicity (read absence of show of



power), as a way of life. He realizes, thinks and acts in the conviction that this world needs less power and more understanding that we are frail, a belief in a God who revealed himself to us only in his humility right from the beginning to the end.

Our authoritarian understanding of positions of power are so stupidly real, predominant and the major cause of all the evil in the Church and its institutions. Being a Superior or someone in a position of responsibility is first and foremost understood that one has become powerful. How can anyone in good senses, even remotely be logically correct that authority invests one with power. Authority is primarily responsibility, and as a consequence more accountability and therefore the need to be even more right than ordinary people have to be, because he or she is in the limelight. True understanding of an added responsibility demands that you hide yourself from the public view, because the demands are only going to snowball, and who in his or her good sense desires that!

The first sign of that madness is the boards outside their rooms where their new position is writ large and it always makes me sick to learn that people are blissfully ignorant that for every new responsibility cast on a person his or her shoulders are only going to sag further. And here is the point I wanted to make. When you sag lower you see more closely people below you. When authority hits you differently, the opposite

happens, you refuse to see, because you think that you have been invested with the power of seeing things that others do not see, or that you see them better, and do turn automatically impermeable, inaccessible, unwieldy and of course more stupid than you were, before you were invested with that authority.

History is a shining example of all such. But our Christian calling is diametrically different. Both in His actions and in his teachings, Jesus teaches us to come down, as an essential attitude of being acceptable to God. The publican in the temple, the adulterous woman, Mary who cries at the feet of Jesus, the prodigal son who acknowledges his moral and physical bankruptcy are loud examples of what makes one more acceptable to God. Certainly not an attitude of power.

A power attitude does not allow us to see that we are wrong, that we wrong others and that we need to change, we just go on, just like Trump who is only a symbol of so many others who through their intransigence clad in their understanding of authority and power destroy other people's lives and institutions.

If you are in power and have empowered people to tell you that you have no proper clothes on, consider yourself fortunate and blessed, otherwise you could well be, the "emperor with the new clothes".

**-Jose Alarico Carvalho**

### **Fr. Agnel Ashram - Bandra** **MASSES and NOVENAS ON SUNDAYS**

| <b>MORNING</b> |                    |             |               |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>TIME</b>    | <b>MASS</b>        | <b>TIME</b> | <b>NOVENA</b> |
| 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       |
| <b>TIME</b>    | <b>NOVENA</b>      | <b>TIME</b> | <b>MASS</b>   |
| 10.30 a.m.     | Tamil              | 11.00 a.m.  | Tamil         |
| <b>EVENING</b> |                    |             |               |
| <b>TIME</b>    | <b>NOVENA</b>      | <b>TIME</b> | <b>MASS</b>   |
| 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](mailto:agnelashramnews@gmail.com)

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

# Sayings of Fr. Agnelo

-P. A. D'Mello

For the spiritual benefit of our readers we give below some of the sayings or maxims very frequently used by Fr.Agnelo in his sermons, in the confessional, or in his conversations.

We also add some of his counsels given or recommendations made to those who had recourse to him, or to his friends, relatives, and pupils. These maxims and counsels even now guide the steps of many who had been under his spiritual direction, and the fact of their keeping them so well engraved in their memory is a sure testimony of how deeply they have influenced their spiritual formation. We are sure, therefore, that Fr.Agnelo's sayings and advice will be of immense benefit to our dear readers:

1. There is nothing better than to be a saint; even the bones of the saints are venerated.
2. We ought to be saints in order to attain our goal.
3. The observance of the rules of the Seminary is like Samson's hair. From there come our strength and victory.
4. Holiness does not consist in hearing Masses, in receiving Holy Communion many times, in saying Rosaries, but in this: Turn from evil and do good.
5. That a sinner may be converted and come

to the right path of penance and perfection, it is necessary that he should daily do meditation for a quarter of an hour, and at night the examination of conscience.

6. We have to strive to become humble of heart, for humility is the foundation of Christian virtues, which like a magnet attracts other virtues.
7. At the last Judgment Day we shall have to render to God a strict account even of idle words.
8. A priest once asked Fr.Agnelo what was required in order to become a saint. Fr.Agnelo answered: to suffer much and to talk very little.
9. To the Seminarians he used to say: one who fulfils his duties faithfully is on the way of perfection.
10. By observing the rules of the house one expiates his past sins, forms himself to virtue, and avoids future sins.
11. One of his common motto in his preachings was "Trust in God and rest like a dog at the feet of his master."
12. To those that used to complain of their crosses and hardships, he used to say: The earth is not heaven.

God bless this New Year in which love overcomes.  
He is always with us and unfolds great possibilities  
All the best for the coming year.

# The Price for the Prize

- Arthur G. D'Mello

It was in the forenoon of a Sunday when a crowd of 300 assembled in the local parish hall to felicitate the newly ordained priest on the occasion of his First Mass.

His eyes were dimmed and moist with tears yet he mustered the strength to overcome his inner feelings as he got set to reply to the toast proposed by a senior prelate. Those present were visibly moved as he narrated the sequence of events. Which led to this momentous day, the culmination in his priesthood, a saga of rare courage and fortitude in the face of stark tragedy intricably linked with his family and his present status.

He reminisced how 8 years ago the Rector of his seminary summoned his parents to apprise them of his poor health, which was proving an impediment to continuance of his studies for the priesthood.

He related how his distraught parent sought more time assuring the Rector that they would somehow ensure his better health. That day they decided that they would seek divine intercession by making a pilgrimage to a Marian Shrine in a far-off city, while he stayed back at the seminary.

He went on to elaborate how tragedy struck his family on the morning of their arrival at the shrine after an arduous journey of 1 ½ days by train. How his older sister and two younger brothers, one of whom was a twin, were paddling in knee-deep water at the beach adjacent to the shrine and in a matter of moments, met a watery grave because of sinking sand. The absence of a cautionary board which they later learnt had become rotten and was washed away, merely compounded the tragedy. His youngest sister and other

twin brother who were mute spectators were admonished by those sinking to run and inform their parents and also obtain help immediately.

His shell-shocked parents were too dumbfounded and could only give vent to their tears, as there was absolutely no trace of the 3 missing children. The next day they could only watch helplessly as the 3 bodies were interred by sympathizers and the priest at the shrine.

Despite their intense grief and sorrow, they did not cease praying at the shrine which provided them tremendous solace in this time of tribulation, especially since kith and kin were too far away to comfort them. Neither did it detract from their deep devotion and faith as they prayed not only for the souls of the departed but also for the health of their son, aspiring to the priesthood.

The newly ordained asserted that ever since that fateful day, he had never fallen ill and was able to prosecute his studies for the priesthood unabated, and successfully.

Today, he stood before the world a full-fledged priest, a star witness to the power of prayer and perseverance in Divine Providence in the face of tragedy, trial and tribulation.

No single guest could hide a tear but stifle a sob as he eulogized on the heavy price paid, the loss of 3 lives as it were, for securing the prize, as ordained Ministership of God.

His parents stood steadfast side by side with his youngest sister and the other twin, mute witnesses of the tragedy earlier and exchanged pleasantries with the guests because they had realized that "Christians should be like the tea-kettle, sing even though we are up to our necks in hot water." (Mueller)

Our hope is not in the New Year but in the one who  
makes all things new.

# Count Your Blessings This New Year

- Janina Gomes

At the start of a New Year, we generally are in an upbeat mood. We look back at the past year either with regret or with satisfaction for what we have achieved. Some people have a list of woes and think that nothing has gone right. Others rejoice that the past year has been satisfying on many counts, depending on one's perspective.

In the coming year let us thank God for his blessings. We have had a roof over our heads, when so many are homeless. We have been able to eat a square meal everyday of the year when so many are deprived of food and nourishment and cannot meet their basic needs.

We have had good parents, grown up in good families. If we are in reasonably good health, we can still move around, take ourselves places, travel to work, and are gifted with sound minds and the ability to perceive the reality outside of us without distortions.

Life was never meant to be one big bang, but a continuous process during which we grow and develop everyday into better human beings. As we grow older, the downside is that we develop ailments that are inevitable, the upside is that we become more prudent, judicious and learn to take the ups and downs of life in our stride.

Some look at the future with apprehension. What will happen to us, how will we cope? Will there be unexpected trials in the next year. We become anxious and our list of worries grows with more worry.

So, if we are able to still lead a reasonably healthy life, let us just relax in this New Year and welcome it with joy. In the New Year, God's promise remains the same as it did yesterday and today. He will walk with us. That will make our journey meaningful.

If we live one day at a time, we will learn to greet the dawn with anticipation; we will welcome the first light during the day. We will be thankful to God for our morning coffee or tea. We will be thankful to God for a good breakfast. We will take the train or bus to our place of work with a spring in our step. We will feel strong enough to deal with the setbacks of the day and see in daily problems opportunities for growth.

Growth is always painful, so we will also welcome the pain. For most people daily life is a struggle but struggle makes them stronger. So I for one, am grateful to God for the countless blessings he has showered on me. And the more I count the blessings, the better the frame of mind in which I will be.

I thank God for the gift of my life, for time, for space, for the air I breathe, the water I am provided with to carry on with my life. I thank God for those who are good to me, for friends and even for foes, because they challenge me to see myself as I really am.

So, friends, rejoice in the New Year. May it be for you a year full of blessings that will cover you and your loved ones, no matter how long the road seems and how weary you may sometimes feel.

“Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.”

-Hal Borland

# Heaven is a State of our Consciousness

-Sri Chinmoy

If your treasure a good thought, then you are creating Heaven. If you cry to God for light, then you get a good experience, an illumining experience, and this experience is nothing but heaven. Again, if you harbour a negative thought, then you are creating hell. In this manner, heaven and hell is experienced everyday.

When the mind falls victim to worries, anxieties and other undivine forces; when the mind is disturbed, agitated, tortured by ugly, impure and undivine thoughts, we feel that we are in hell. But when the beauty, light and divinity of the heart come to the fore and we try to reveal and manifest them in the aspiring world, then we feel that we are in heaven.

We do not have to wait for death to find hell or heaven. Both are within us in our daily life and conduct. If we are always surrendered, we are in a position to remain always in heaven in this very life on earth. For each time we enjoy a pure thought, we feel that we are living in our own homemade heaven.

Just because we have not experienced the Infinite, the Immortal and the Eternal, we feel that the opposite, the finite, is hell. But the bondage that we are experiencing every day is only a passing phase; It is like an overcast day. For a few hours the sun may not shine, but finally the sun comes out. Each individual has a inner sun-now covered by fear, doubt, worries, anxieties, imperfections and limitations. But a day will come when we will be able to overcome these so that the inner sun shines forth brightly.

We are all God's children. For us there is no hell;

there is only light. But if we do not see the truth in the way truth has to be seen, then there is inner pain. The truth is there, but we have to see truth in the proper way. Then only we will see that life has its true meaning.

Heaven means infinite peace, light and bliss. When a seeker prays and meditates, he enters into heaven. When his mind is calm and quiet, when his mind is tranquil, his heart becomes all-giving and his life becomes Divinity's Reality. Heaven is not a place; it is a state of consciousness. When we free our mind from the meshes of ignorance, we see, feel and grow into heaven.

The aim of life is conscious realization of God. Everyone has unconscious awareness of God. A seeker meditates on God and gradually, his own consciousness develops to such an extent that he feels God's presence constantly everywhere. A sincere seeker is a divine hero. He fights off the teeming darkness to fulfil God's will here on earth. Otherwise there will always be a yawning gulf between earth and heaven. This earth of ours must be transformed into heaven, into a place of joy, peace, bliss and delight.

The very conception of heaven is something bright, luminous, delightful and, at the same time, immortal. But we have to know what is immortal in us. When we say that earth will be transformed into Heaven that means that anything that is within us or in the world that is now imperfect, obscure or uninspiring will be transformed eventually into perfection.

(Courtesy : *The Times of India – The Speaking Tree*)

Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future,  
concentrate the mind on the present moment.

-Buddha



# AGNEL HAPPENINGS

## Fr. Agnel School Annual Day 2016, Bandra

**T**he Fr. Agnel School Annual Day 2016 at Bandra was a Three-Days extravaganza, from 15th to 17th December, of scintillating prayer dances, cultural dances, one-act plays, instrumental music, Christmas dances & carols and acrobatics, from Pre-Primary to Jr. College. Over thousand and three-hundred children put their best foot forward in giving a touch of innocence, beauty, direction and excellence, thus enunciating the theme “Mercy”, through the depiction of parables of Good Samaritan and The Prodigal Son, a theme very close to the heart of Pope Francis and, as lived and meaningfully inscribed by Ven. Fr. Agnelo, our Patron in his writings, “Do good and shun evil”.

All the items were beautifully choreographed to modern beats and rhythms. The Manager had a word of applause and appreciation to all the teachers who have handled and trained the children without any professional help, thus

bringing out the best in the students.

The entire programme was conceived and co-ordinated by Fr. Nazareth Fernandes, Manager of the School with the help of respective heads of Sections. The main motive of spreading the Annual Day to a Three-Days sort of Children Festival was to ensure their maximum participation and consequently of their parents/wards. The children could display their discovered hidden talents and aptitudes to their parents and dear ones. The parents loved to see their children performing on the stage, with loud applause and enthusiasm.

The Chief Guests for the three respective days were – Mr. Marshal Dias, Director of Human Resource at Taj Lands End, Bandra; Dr. Ashok Kumar Sinha, Director of Aliyavar Jung Institute, Reclamation, Bandra; and Fr. Valerian D’Souza, Director of Fr. Agnel Technical Education Complex.

## 34th Annual Sports Meet 2016 -2017

**T**he 34th Annual Sports Meet concluded on 21st December 2016 at the Fr. Agnel Sports Complex, Vashi. Various races were conducted for students of all sections in the fortnight prior to the concluding ceremony. The meet opened with the torch relay by Rosalin Lewis, international athlete who won a silver at the World Athletics Meet in Turkey.

The Inter House March Past competition was won by the Blue House Squad. A well

– coordinated and synchronized drill was performed by 700 students of Middle school. All the final races were conducted thereafter.

The chief Guest for the occasion was Arjuna Awardee Ms. Abhilasha Mhatre, Sports officer with NMMC.

The Blue House was declared the overall champion and the Green House won the Runners-up position.

The objective of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new Soul.

# Fr. Agnel School *Annual*



Lighting of the Lamp by the Chief Guest Fr.Valerian D'Souza Director



Chief Guest - Dr.Ashok Kumar Sinha & Dignitaries



Instrumental Music Show Gulabi Aenkhe.



Head Teacher Linda Mascarenhas welcoming our Guest of Honour Fr.Dilip Donke.



Manager Fr.Nazareth Fernandes and Chief Guest Mr. Marshal Dias Director of Human Resources at Taj Lands End enjoying the programme.



# ool, Bandra Day 2016



Dance - Itni Si Hasi- K.G.



K.G. - Cuties in action



Performing Prayer dance by Primary



Gymnastic show 'Deep Yoga' by Secondary



Hindi Skit - Samaritan by Secondary

## Hat Trick and More

**F**r. Agnel Multipurpose School, Vashi won the Annual Sports Quiz competition conducted by Nerul Gymkhana on 4th December 2016. The team created a record by winning the Quiz for the fourth consecutive year. 35 schools from the city participated in the Quiz. The team won a rolling trophy, individual trophies and a pair of sports shoes each. The team comprised of Dhruv Shingate, Chirantan Shah and Siddhi Patil from Std. X. The Quiz was conducted by reputed Quiz



master Mr. Pradeep Divgikar. The team received guidance from their teachers Mrs. Shalini Gupta and Mrs. Gijan George.

## Annual Sports Meet 2016-2017

Education at **Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune** aims at a holistic approach of a healthy mind and a healthy body through healthy values. Annual Sports Meet for the students of Std. Vth to IXth was held on 2nd December 2016. The lawn encircled by spectators witnessed a traditional opening ceremony. Interesting track events were followed by cultural programmes such as Panchmahatvatva of Std VI, Colours of life of Std VII, Lezim and Pyramids of Std VIII, Bhakti Shakti dance of Maharashtra performed by Std IX enthralled the spectators. The grand finale based on the theme of the year 'Healthy Values Happy Life' projected the agility and zeal among the participants. The Chief guest Mr. Ravindra Pethe, Shiv Chatrapati Award Winner (Mallakhamb) in his address appreciated the



*Chief Guest Mr Ravindra Pethe*



*Bhakti Shakti*





efforts taken by the teachers and emphasized on the importance of sports. Prize distribution of individual events and team events echoed cheers and applause in the campus. The

trophy for the leading house was bagged by Compassion house. The Sports Day concluded with the School Anthem, thus inculcating a sense of oneness among students.

**T**en extraordinary days which were exhilarating, rejuvenating and absolutely stunning. The journey to Kolkata, Darjeeling and Sikkim turned into a very special and memorable stay for **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, Ambarnath.**

To begin with, we started our journey from Ambarnath on the 4th of November'16, full of excitement about the adventure into the unknown. From Kalyan junction, Gyaneshwari Express took us... 147 students and 15 teachers to "The City Of Joy", Kolkata.

Though the train journey seemed endless and arduous, but the marvel of the Howrah Bridge and sweets of Bengal made it worthwhile. Making most of the opportunity, we visited two iconic places at Kolkata. Victoria Memorial, the epitome of elegance and history; is still standing tall amidst the test of time. The journey would have been incomplete without visiting "The Mother House of the Missionaries of Charity" established by Mother Teresa who devoted her life in the service of humanity. It's an experience one needs to experience to understand the feeling.

With bagful of memories, we embarked on our journey to Gangtok..... 'A Tourist Paradise'. The snow-capped mountains were an unmatched sight which truly made us forget the rigours of the journey. The view of the Kanchenjunga from the window of the hotel room was beautiful and majestic with the snow-capped mountain dazzling in the sun. And now it was time to..... indulge. Evening we all went for shopping and enjoyed having momos with hot tea. Next morning was earmarked for Tsangu Lake and Baba Mandir. Tsangu lake indeed is a natural marvel. Baba Mandir was built in memory of an Indian soldier Baba Harbhajan Singh

Our cup of joy was brimming to the point of overflow... with such spell binding scenic beauty....as we headed towards Darjeeling.

## From Ambarnath To Darjeeling

Darjeeling was not only beautiful but absolutely mesmerising. Mother Nature was at her embracing best. The sunrise from "Tiger hills" left us all speechless. There were many discomforts on the route but the sight of mother nature unfolding her hands to cover the darkness of the night to uncover the dawn of a new beginning was something which only the creator could do.

From there on....the chills of tea garden were eagerly awaiting our arrival. With lots of frolicking we entered the tea gardens and witnessed the mammoth task that goes behind 'A CUP OF TEA'. We went berserk buying tea and trying different concoctions. Our next visit was Tenzing Rock where we came to know so many interesting facts about Tenzing Norgay.

The winds and the birds have no borders. Birds migrate over thousands of kilometres with no questions asked and no answers sought. It is we humans who are bound in boundaries and watch over them spending millions. Standing at the Nepal border we never felt we were standing on two countries at the same time. What was different.... The soil?? The air?? The sound?? The fire?? The water?? The five elements were just the same yet we were two different countries. We shook ourselves back from our repertoires and jumped headlong into a shopping spree. After shopping was done we reached New Jalpaiguri to backtrack our steps to Ambarnath.

To end my musings, let me thank Fr. Agnel for this opportunity of seeing a new place with people who became a family at the end of the trip and thank each and every one of you who made this trip possible.



# Celebrating Christmas

Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune organized a Christmas celebration on 20th December. The programme began with the prayer service. The students enacted the Nativity play depicting the true joy and peace of Christmas. The presence of

the shepherds, angels and three kings gave a sense of authenticity to the play. The play was interspersed with carol singing by the staff and students. A brightly decorated Christmas tree and Santa Claus delighted the students. The Director Rev. Fr. Tony Fernandes in his message emphasized the importance of Jesus' birth as caring, sharing, peace and spreading goodness among all people. The programme ended with spreading the sweetness of Christmas message and wishing everyone 'Happy New Year'.



For many of us in this country Christmas is about Santa Claus, exchanging gifts and about having a good time with family and friends. Every shopping mall & eating joint is cheerfully decorated in the colors of red & green and Santa Claus is the visible, undeniable hero of Christmas. The Holy Family in the Manger is just about forgotten.

At Fr. Agnel School, New Delhi, the students of classes IV & V changed all that. They staged a Christmas play that conveyed with such piercing clarity and conviction what Christmas is all about. And the messenger who told a spell-bound audience the true meaning of Christmas was none other than Santa Claus himself.

## The True Meaning of Christmas



*Santa with his little Santas*



*The Glory of Christ*



*We bring you gifts, O Lord*

The play was scripted by Ms. Shalini Sagar. Ms. Sabina Peters & Ms. Mamta helped in the direction. Santa Claus tells a group of little children about the birth of Jesus Christ, the son of God, the Saviour of Mankind. The students

and the staff of Fr. Agnel School were grateful for having been given the opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Kudos teachers and students of classes IV & V!!!!



*The Nativity Scene*

## THE JOY OF GIVING

*God loves  
cheerful Giver!*

Letters from some  
Benefactors and Friends of  
our Balbhuvan Children

### **Bulbul Dutt, Kolkata**

*I am enclosing a cheque for ₹.1,000 towards your sponsorship scheme for the orphan boys in your Balbhuvan. 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 ₹.1,500. 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 ₹. 3,000 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 ₹.5,000 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.*

**“There’s only one growth strategy: work hard.”  
- William Hague**



# Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

## NUMEROUS FAVOURS RECEIVED

**Marine Lines :** I am a staunch devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel for the past many years. I have received numerous blessings through his powerful intercession. As a token of my love and gratitude an offering of ₹.2,000 to Ven.Fr.Agnel.

-M.K. Patel

## SHOWER OF BLESSINGS

**U.S.A. :** We are traditionally staunch devotees of Ven.Fr.Agnel from Kerala for the past many years. By the grace of Ven.Fr.Agnel we have settled down in U.S.A. with good job, elegant apartment and all facilities. As a token of our profound gratitude an offering of \$1000 to the Ashram.

-Jose Kachappilly

## HEALING OF WOUND ON THE HEAD

**Betalbatim-Goa :** My son met with a very serious accident leaving him unconscious, with grave wound on his head. The doctors had given up hopes on him. We decided to go to Pilar and place my son into the hands of God through the intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel, and arranged for a special community prayer for him. I touched his tongue with the relic of the mud of Fr.Agnel's tomb and all of us were praying for his early recovery. To our great relief my son started improving slowly and steadily. On the 16th day of the accident

he spoke. Now he is okay and we pray that his wound may heal soon. I thank Ven.Fr.Agnel and pray for his early canonization.

-Celestina Fernandes

## GOT SUITABLE LIFE PARTNER

**Kochi:** My youngest daughter was not getting a suitable match according to status and profession. We were very much worried as other children had settled down. Advised by a relative we had sent our petition to be placed at the tomb of Ven.Fr.Agnel. We fervently prayed for his blessings on our daughter. We are now extremely happy to inform you that our daughter got a very suitable boy from a respectable family. Their marriage was successfully held on 10th April 2016. Our heartfelt thanks with an offering of ₹.2000 to the Ashram.

-Alice Mathew

## JOB PROBLEM RESOLVED

**London:** I was facing some serious problems in my job. I was very much disturbed and there was tension. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel and through his intercession the problem has been amicably settled and my job is secure.

With a grateful heart an offering of ₹.500 to Ven.Fr.Agnel.

-Sharad Gandhi



## CURED OF KIDNEY PROBLEM

**Sanvordem-Goa:** When my son was 4 years he had a fall. I showed him to the doctor who took a scan. The report revealed that his kidney had mal-rotated.

On taking a second opinion I was told that there is some treatment but my son would have to undergo a lot of pain. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel and then took him to another doctor who told us that the painful treatment was not required and he prescribed some pills. I am glad to say that with this treatment my son's condition steadily improved and eventually he got alright. I am deeply grateful to Ven.Fr.Agnel and pray for his early beatification.

-Joana Mika Louis

## TEARFUL PRAYERS ANSWERED

**Kerala:** My only daughter fell in love with a boy belonging to other religion. Advices and persuasion did not bring any change in her decision. I was in a terrible condition. She was about to elope with him. In this predicament I sent a petition to the Ashram. I got a very consoling reply from the Father Superior and he assured me of prayers of the orphan boys and Fathers during the Novena Prayers. I am now extremely happy to inform you that Ven.Fr.Agnel heard my fervent tearful pleas as my daughter has completely given up her affair with him and agreed for a marriage of my choice. My grateful thanks offering to Ven.Fr.Agnel of ₹.1500.

-Jessy Joseph

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## CURED OF CHRONIC DRY COUGH AND COLD

**Santacruz:** My mother was praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel with great faith and devotion for her son-in-law and grandson who were suffering from chronic dry cough and cold for a long time.

Although they were under medication it did not bring a lasting relief to them.

She is now very happy to inform you that both of them have been completely cured of dry cough and cold and she has also received many other blessings from Ven. Fr. Agnel. With a grateful heart an offering of ₹.1000.

-Delcey & Lancy Menezes

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## REGAINED NORMAL HEALTH

**Agassaim-Goa:** We received a phone call from my husband who is working in Saudi Arabia that he was not feeling well and did not want to continue work.

He went through several tests which revealed nothing odd. My daughter and I then went to Pilar and prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel to intercede to God for his healing. I am happy to say that Ven. Fr.Agnel heard my prayer and my husband has regained his normal health. I thank Ven.Fr.Agnel and pray that he may be proclaimed a saint soon.

- Maria Viegas

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When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, for your strength. Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason to give thanks, the fault lies in yourself.

-Tecumseh

## Out of Their Bounty

|                |             |        |                  |             |      |                  |             |     |
|----------------|-------------|--------|------------------|-------------|------|------------------|-------------|-----|
| Lilly Menezes  | Vasai       | 100000 | M. Pinto         | U.A.E.      | 2000 | J.J. Menachery   | Aurangabad  | 501 |
| P. Srivastava  | Mumbai      | 35000  | P.R. Surati      | Canada      | 2000 | A. George        | Kerala      | 501 |
| A.G. Marangoly | Australia   | 32345  | A.A. Lisboa      | Vasai       | 2000 | T.D. Antony      | Kerala      | 501 |
| S. Saje        | Al-Ain      | 30000  | S. Ghosh         | Mumbai      | 2000 | S. Kaka          | Mumbai      | 500 |
| Thelma D'Souza | Mumbai      | 24000  | U.J. Thakkar     | Thane       | 2000 | G.R. Rane        | Thane       | 500 |
| J. Fernandes   | Delhi       | 19200  | G.R. Marques     | Goa         | 2000 | G. Veeramani     | Chennai     | 500 |
| A. Augustie    | Kerala      | 15500  | S. Inigo         | T.N.        | 2000 | A.M. Sagar       | A.P.        | 500 |
| A. D'Souza     | Abu Dhabi   | 15000  | V.M. Diana       | T.N.        | 2000 | E.V. Sebastian   | Kerala      | 500 |
| D. J. Rebello  | Mangalore   | 12000  | Mary Sunny       | Kerala      | 2000 | R. Araujo        | Goa         | 500 |
| V. Lewis       | Kolkata     | 12000  | Jose Thomas      | Kerala      | 2000 | R. Zaman         | Kolkata     | 500 |
| C. V. D'Souza  | Mumbai      | 10000  | S. Robert        | Kerala      | 2000 | L. Muller        | Odisha      | 500 |
| Jos K.V.       | Kerala      | 10000  | J. Baldrey       | U.K.        | 1886 | Dr. Sarosh Lath  | Daman       | 500 |
| E. Edulji      | Mumbai      | 10000  | E. Sealy         | Canada      | 1830 | N.M. Amolik      | Ahmednagar  | 500 |
| S.R. alphonso  | Kuwait      | 9750   | H. Mampara       | U.S.A.      | 1600 | P. Rajathi       | Pondicherry | 500 |
| M. Pereira     | Mumbai      | 8000   | J.K. Jacob       | U.S.A.      | 1550 | N. Assey         | Bangalore   | 500 |
| G. Lobo        | Mangalore   | 6750   | Y. Josphipura    | U.S.A.      | 1500 | M.J. Vincent     | Kerala      | 500 |
| M.J. D'Souza   | Dubai       | 6000   | A. Daniel        | Kuwait      | 1500 | B. Kandiar       | Mumbai      | 500 |
| D. Mathew      | Canada      | 6000   | John Thomas      | Vadodara    | 1500 | A.M. D'Souza     | Karnataka   | 500 |
| P. Fernndes    | Mumbai      | 6000   | R. Alphonso      | Vasai       | 1500 | P. Thomson       | Kerala      | 500 |
| N.R. Martin    | Mumbai      | 6000   | A. Jayasimhan    | Mumbai      | 1500 | Ruby Joseph      | Kerala      | 500 |
| A. Varkey      | Kerala      | 6000   | K.M. Antony      | Kerala      | 1500 | Philip Sylvester | Satara      | 500 |
| B.S. Mehta     | Muscat      | 5000   | B.R. Nair        | Mumbai      | 1200 | S. George        | Kerala      | 500 |
| S. Mathew      | U.K.        | 5000   | A.V. Elamana     | U.S.A.      | 1191 | D. Salas         | Kerala      | 500 |
| D.J. Pereira   | Mumbai      | 5000   | V.H. Bhavnani    | Mumbai      | 1100 | Sr. Celine       | T.N.        | 500 |
| S.S. Rane      | Nallasopara | 5000   | V.A. Fernandes   | Goa         | 1050 | M.M. Joseph      | Kerala      | 500 |
| Agnelo D'Souza | Mumbai      | 5000   | P.B. Sidwa       | Mumbai      | 1001 | O. Varghese      | Kerala      | 500 |
| S.F. Hussein   | Mumbai      | 5000   | J. Thomas        | Kerala      | 1000 | P. Magadia       | Thane       | 500 |
| John Serrao    | Bangalore   | 5000   | L. Jose          | Kerala      | 1000 | R. Chacko        | Chennai     | 500 |
| S.C. Mehta     | Mumbai      | 5000   | V.S. Bilolikar   | Mumbai      | 1000 | A.F. Pereira     | Kolhapur    | 500 |
| A.M.Olpadwala  | Mumbai      | 5000   | M. Rodrigues     | Mumbai      | 1000 | H. Gala          | Delhi       | 500 |
| S. S. Prasad   | Mumbai      | 5000   | F.Q.R. Rebello   | Mumbai      | 1000 | S.K. Philipo     | Kerala      | 500 |
| J. Berchmans   | Chennai     | 5000   | A. Lobo          | Mumbai      | 1000 | K. Xavier        | Bangalore   | 500 |
| Urvi Agency    | Bhayander   | 5000   | E. Pereira       | Mumbai      | 1000 | K. Joseph        | Chennai     | 500 |
| K. Ghoshal     | Mumbai      | 5000   | K.J. Jose        | Kerala      | 1000 | K. Salve         | Ahmednagar  | 500 |
| S. Varghese    | Kerala      | 5000   | S.J. Rangoonwala | Mumbai      | 1000 | J.Agnel          | Kerala      | 500 |
| H. Williams    | Australia   | 4985   | V.K. Pijwala     | Gujarat     | 1000 | A.E. Thomas      | Kerala      | 500 |
| Subramaniam R  | Mumbai      | 4500   | B. Dutt          | Kolkata     | 1000 | George Mathew    | Kerala      | 500 |
| R.N. Mary      | Mangalore   | 4000   | M. Jacob         | Kerala      | 1000 | M.K. Pereira     | Pune        | 400 |
| d. Young       | Canada      | 3801   | Dr. S. Chaudhuri | Kolkata     | 1000 | D. Bastian       | Kerala      | 400 |
| G. Parmar      | U.S.A.      | 3169   | N.M. Paulose     | Kerala      | 1000 | Dr.V.B. Reddy    | A.P.        | 400 |
| S. Wood        | U.K.        | 3101   | A. Mittathany    | Kerala      | 1000 | T.V. Scaria      | Kerala      | 350 |
| M.J. Lam       | Deolali     | 3080   | P. Hendricks     | Pondicherry | 1000 | M. George        | Kerala      | 300 |
| L. John        | Delhi       | 3070   | K. Jose          | Kerala      | 1000 | S. Mistry        | Pune        | 300 |
| S. Gandhi      | U.K.        | 3000   | Dr.M. Thomas     | Kerla       | 1000 | H.C. D'Souza     | Chennai     | 300 |
| Pio Lope       | Vasai       | 3000   | Dr.c. Engles     | Amritsar    | 1000 | S.S. Ethel       | Pondicherry | 300 |
| C. Sebastian   | Kerala      | 3000   | R.A. Francis     | Kerala      | 1000 | A. Alagaram      | T.N.        | 300 |
| M. George      | Kerala      | 2600   | M. John          | Kerala      | 1000 | Sheela Jose      | Kerala      | 300 |
| D.R. Choksy    | Mumbai      | 2501   | F.G. Xavier      | Kerala      | 1000 | M.O. Joseph      | Kerala      | 300 |
| J. Mathew      | Kerala      | 2500   | Marceline A.     | Pune        | 1000 | G. Mathew        | Gujarat     | 300 |
| K. Parmar      | Ahmedabad   | 2500   | R. Abraha        | Kerala      | 1000 | R. Joseph        | Kerala      | 250 |
| Augustine V.K. | Kerala      | 2500   | J. almeida       | Mangalore   | 750  | Ranni Louis      | Kerala      | 250 |
| R. Albuquerque | Australia   | 2450   | M. McNair        | U.K.        | 670  | M. John          | Kerala      | 250 |
| I. Natalia     | Saustrelia  | 2348   | G.J. Parakal     | Kerala      | 600  | Anto Paul        | Kerala      | 250 |
| A.E. Joeph     | Kerala      | 2001   | M. Lasardo       | Mangalore   | 600  | P.M. Joseph      | Kerala      | 200 |
| H. Wilson      | Australia   | 2000   | . Doloi          | Kolkata     | 600  | L. Allwyn        | T.N.        | 200 |
| J. Kaviyil     | Dubai       | 2000   | P. J. Salvi      | Mumbai      | 501  | A.C. Baby        | Kerala      | 200 |
|                |             |        | S.S. Shah        | Mumbai      | 501  |                  |             |     |



## FROM AMBERNATH TO DARJEELING



*Beautifully Landscaped garden flanking the entire memorial*



*Photography is about capturing Souls not Smiles*



*The best thing about memories is making them*



*Good company in a journey makes the way seem shorter*



*Life is better when You're Laughing*



*Baba Mandir- A place where a hero becomes divine and a legend was born... ..*



*Tsangu Lake- It's Cool, Placid water harmonizes with the scenic beauty around*



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## ANNUAL SPORTS MEET 2016-17 AT VASHI



*Arjuna Awardee Ms. Abhilasha Mhatre & Rev. Fr.S.Almeida with the winners*



*Our Middle School Choir*



*Sports Day Overall Winner Blue House.*



*Rosaline Lewis World Games Athletics winner was felicitated by Rev. Fr.S.Almeida*



*Sports faculties with Chief Guest Ms. Abhilasha Mhatre , Principal Mrs. Snigdha Roy & Rev. Fr.S. Almeida*



*Winners were felicitated by Rev. Fr.S. Almeida*