



FR

March 2018

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS

from **CROSS** to
RESURRECTION

FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

March 2018

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Happy Easter to you. Christ has Truly Risen! Alleluia!

He Has Destroyed Sin & Death, given us a share in His Resurrection

Dear Friends And Benefactors,

We are deeply grateful to you for your generous contributions. As you may know we have five orphanages located at Bandra, Vashi, Delhi, Pune and Goa where we have over eight hundred orphans under our care. Besides we take care of many more children in the villages providing them education facilities and teaching them various skills. Your continuous support lights up their hope with a feeling that you really care for them.

May the Risen Lord shower on you and all your dear ones his choicest Blessings.
Yours Sincerely in the Lord,

(Fr. Peter D'Souza)

Local Superior

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JESUS, THE CROSS AND YOU

- Ron Nikkel

Lately I have been thinking about the crucifixion of Jesus and how such a macabre symbol of execution as the cross has become a symbol of hope for believers in Jesus.

As a symbol, the cross is both bizarre and extraordinary. It is a bizarre symbol because well into the third century the cross — crucifixion — continued to be the common means of executing people who were condemned to death for reasons of crime or treason. It was such a shameful way to die that it was reserved for second class citizens and non-Roman citizens of the Roman empire. Crucifixion was relegated for use in executing criminals and subversives who were second-class residents, non-citizens, aliens and people of the occupied territories. So it is little wonder that St. Paul refers to the significance of the cross as being despicable or foolishness to the Greeks (Roman citizens) and insulting or offensive to the Jews (a non-citizen people subservient to Rome).

Yet by the second century, among both Greek and Jewish followers of Jesus Christ, the cross had become the symbol of their faith in Jesus of Nazareth. Among the early church fathers whose writings reflect this was Tertullian, a North African lawyer and theologian who wrote, “At every forward step and movement, at every going in and out, when we put on our clothes and shoes, when we bathe, when we sit at table, when we light the lamps, on couch, on seat, in all the ordinary actions of daily life, we trace upon the forehead the sign [of the cross].” Far from being used in a perfunctory or superstitious way, making the sign of the cross was a courageous sign of allegiance to Jesus Christ above any allegiance to the emperor and the state. Against all threats of ridicule, persecution, imprisonment, torture and death, those who believed and followed Jesus signified their life commitment by the sign of the cross.

During the third century, after Emperor Constantine the Great embraced the Christian

faith, the symbol of the cross became the symbol of the state. Under his official mandate, the cross was emblazoned on the shields of his military forces and became the symbol of the “Holy Roman Empire.” While it can be argued that this marked the beginning of a cultural and historical process that has detracted from the original power and meaning of the symbol, the cross has continued as the central symbol of the Christian faith. Notwithstanding the disparate and often disparaging ways in which cultures have regarded the cross during the past 20 centuries, for followers of Jesus the cross remains the unique central and potent symbol of their faith in Him.

The cross is an extraordinary symbol — rich in history, loaded with meaning and counter-intuitive in the face of power and wealth as the enduring icons of success. Whenever I make the sign of the cross, I am profoundly conscious of identifying with Jesus Christ and standing in the flow of Christians from different backgrounds and traditions who have tenaciously and courageously confronted the idolatry and the evil of their times under the shadow of the cross.

It is noteworthy that different Christian traditions depict the cross in varying ways, and while the depictions and styles of the cross may vary, the cross still remains their symbolic center point. As I have studied and contemplated the variations by which the cross is presented, I have become enriched in my understanding of the amazing significance of the cross.

One of the most recognizable depictions of the cross in Roman Catholic tradition is the crucifix comprised of a cross with the figure of Jesus on it. The crucifix powerfully focuses my thoughts on the injustice and torture inflicted on Jesus — Jesus the Innocent Victim; Jesus the Wounded Healer; Jesus the suffering Savior; Jesus who suffered and died, taking upon Himself the sins of the world, suffering the consequence of my guilt. When I meditate

on this cross I think also of the cogent words of St. Paul, who saw in his own suffering continuity with the suffering of Jesus — a fellowship of suffering in solidarity with Jesus for the sake of others. I am reminded that the grace and mercy I have received through the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is a grace I do not deserve, cannot earn and can never repay. In gratitude I can only follow in sacrificial service with Jesus, knowing that to follow may include suffering for the sake of truth and justice and compassion for others. The Jesus I follow suffered enormous injustice, humiliation and abandonment on the way to bringing good news to the poor, and freedom to the oppressed and dispossessed.

The cross in Eastern Orthodox tradition is typically very ornate, often magnificently gilded and jeweled. This depiction of the cross speaks to me of the glory and majesty of Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the One who has won the cosmic victory over all injustice and evil through His death on the cross. The crude and cruel cross itself has been transformed from defeat into victory. As I contemplate this cross, my mind becomes filled with thoughts of Jesus who told the disciples that He was leaving them in order to prepare a place in His Kingdom and that He would return for them so that they could be together with Him forever. I take courage from the victory of Jesus and my heart fills with joy and expectation in realizing that the troubles in our world are not the final word. Through the cross I am in awe of the incalculable beauty and the unspeakable glory of the One who rules the universe and whose Kingdom will be fully realized. He is the One who was, who is and who is to come — Ruler over all.

The product of the Protestant Reformation is a simple unadorned cross, an empty cross resonating with the profound proclamation that Jesus died but is not dead. The cross is stripped of its terrible finality. Jesus Christ is risen! This is the Easter cross that celebrates the continuing reality of Jesus' triumph over the cross and His resurrection from brutality and death. As I meditate on this I am overcome by the realization that this Jesus who overcame

suffering and evil is alive and present with me, giving me strength and hope and infusing me with new life here and now. I am gripped by the exclamation of St. Paul who longed to know Christ and the power of His resurrection in the midst of all the forces of oppression, turmoil and difficulty that confronted him. Followers of Jesus are participants in the resurrected life of Jesus Christ — as St. Paul says, “through whom we live and move and have our being.”

Another common depiction of the cross that often corresponds to Pentecostal and Charismatic traditions is the cross emblazoned with the outline of a dove or flame of fire. This is the cross of Jesus' ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit. It speaks of Jesus who victoriously completed His mission and has returned to the glory of the Father. Yet He promised never to abandon His disciples as orphans, but to send to them an advocate, a Counselor, the Holy Spirit who would be with them and empower them to continue the work He gave them to do. The church was born at Pentecost, when Peter and the disciples were emboldened and equipped by the Holy Spirit to preach the good news in every language, to heal the sick and to serve the poor. The story of those disciples and the early church is the thrilling story of ordinary men doing extraordinary things in the power of the Holy Spirit. As I fix my eyes on the meaning of this depiction of the cross, I find myself rejoicing in the presence of the Holy Spirit who has energized and re-energized the church throughout the ages and who is working through the church in our day too.

You and I live under the sign of the cross — the cross of Jesus Christ, which has stood and continues to stand at the center of our faith. It is the cross at the center of our various Christian traditions, the cross that is the story of the church. It is at the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ that we are reconciled to God and to each other. It is in the way of the cross that we continue to follow Jesus — our Wounded Healer, Lord of lords and King of kings, Our Resurrected Savior, the One who has not left us but who continually accompanies and empowers us by His Holy Spirit.

The Religious and the Political Trials of Christ

- Fr. Eusebio Gomes, sfx

Lent is a special period in the Church, a period to obtain graces and to renew our spiritual lives. This period leads us to reflect on the Paschal Mystery: Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ. It is a time to realize our spiritual deterioration, unworthiness and brokenness, a time to allow God to enter our lives and to deepen our relationship with Him and with other human beings. During this Lenten period let us reflect on the Religious and the Political Trials of Jesus.

Religious Trial

Jesus was arrested on the Mount of Olives while he was praying at the place called Gethsemane. That evening he was taken to the high priest Caiaphas' house who played the role of the official inquisitor of Jesus. 71 members of the Sanhedrin with its three constituent groups – chief priests, elders and scribes were not authorized to prosecute Jesus at that late hour that was prohibited by law. Nevertheless they interrogated him concerning his doctrine, his disciples and his teachings. The accusation was that he proclaimed himself as the Son of God and thus blasphemed. In this Religious trial they could not proceed to a capital execution as the Jews were under the Roman Empire and the political power was vested with the Roman Governor. Next day the former high priest Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas and other religious leaders took advantage of the interval to interrogate Jesus concerning his doctrine, his disciples and his intentions. (Lk. 22:66). Pope Benedict XVI in his book 'Jesus of Nazareth' assumes that what took place when Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin was not a proper trial, but more of a cross-examination led to the decision to hand him over to the Roman Governor for sentencing. Jesus' interrogation before the Sanhedrin had concluded in the way Caiaphas had expected: Jesus was found guilty of blasphemy, for which the penalty was

death. In reality in this trial Christ could not be found guilty of the religious claim.

Political Trial

Later on the chief priests and others brought Jesus to Pilate for the second trial. In this political judiciary, the Judge was the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. The charge of blasphemy was not mentioned as Jewish leaders thought that Pilate would not accept it. The charge was that Jesus had made a Messianic claim, through which He put Himself on a par with God that contradicted the very basis of Israel's faith - the belief in one God. Jesus was accused of leading a rebellion against Rome with the intention of installing himself as a king. The Messianic claim is a claim to kingship over Israel. Hence the placing of the charge "King of the Jews" above the Cross, was to indicate the reason for his execution. The claim to Messianic kingship was a political offense, one that had to be punished by the Roman Governor. Pilate interrogated Jesus about His kingship. In this trial, Jesus was condemned as a guerrilla subversive. In this trial also, Jesus could not be found guilty of the political claim.

Jesus was a threat to the chief priests, elders and religious leaders of his time. He confronted them and challenged their hegemony, imposition of harsh rules and hypocritical teachings. He dismantled the unjust structures of the society and empowered the weak, the poor, the downtrodden and the women. He identified with the common people by visiting their houses and sharing their food with them. He spent most of his time in the villages with the lowly and the poor than in towns with the mighty and the elites. He extended his forgiving hands to the sinners and ministered to the sick and needy. He was gaining popularity among the poor and the underprivileged. The chief priests and the

religious leaders conspired to terminate His mission and exterminate him. The political judiciary sealed His fate, i.e. condemnation to death on a Cross. The crucifixion of Jesus became a shameful and painful act. Shameful act because his dignity and integrity were destroyed on the Cross and painful because of the tortures he endured from the soldiers, religious leaders and chief priests. The crucifixion of Jesus was an expiatory sacrifice for the sins of his people (Is. 53:5). His death was regarded as the price demanded by God in ransom for all human beings. God the Father accepted the vicarious sufferings of Christ, his total obedience to Him unto death. That is the reason Christ was highly exalted by his Father (Phil 2:8-9).w

Today, what is the message of the Cross for us in the context of the world torn by violence, killings, wars and bloodshed? For

He spent most of his time in the villages with the lowly and the poor than in towns with the mighty and the elites. He extended his forgiving hands to the sinners and ministered to the sick and needy.

the womenfolk, carrying their crosses is to cry out against their plight i.e. violations of their human rights. For the Dalits, low-caste and the landless people carrying their crosses is to fight for equal rights and for the land to survive. For the followers of Christ, carrying their crosses is to be in solidarity with the crucified people of this world – especially children who are manipulated by the powerful manufacturers in their firms and factories, those who are sexually abused in the tourism industry, and those who have no homes or shelter but are found on streets, parks and railway stations. In fact we crucify Christ everyday with our hateful and violent acts against fellow human beings. Let us bring him down from the Cross. Let us utilise this time of Lent in a fruitful way so that we celebrate worthily the feast of Easter with 'Alleluia' on our LIPS. Easter with 'Alleluia' on our lips.

FORM IV (SEE RULE 8)

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I, Rev. Fr. Peter D'Souza, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated : 1st March 2018.

Fr. Peter D'Souza

The Truth, Presence and Power of the Risen Lord

-Leon Bent

To believe that the “Lord is Risen” is to believe that He is present to us in a radical and miraculous way. His powerful presence is accessible only by faith — this is because He has ascended into heaven. Such is the substance of our hope. When we cleave to Him by faith, because His presence is real and personal, He raises us up with Him.

When Mary Magdalene calls out to the Risen Lord, He tells her not to cling to Him because He has not yet ascended to the Father. He sends her — the Apostle to the Apostles — to his Apostles to announce to them the resurrection. His words reveal that someday she will possess Him in a more palpable and marvellous way — but He must ascend from the midst of this life first, so that, this new presence can be known. She will have the fullness of faith when the Holy Spirit descends on her. By the faith the Holy Spirit produces, Mary Magdalene will be raised up to new life – and she will be able to cling to the ‘One’ she loves — and who loves her even more!

Nevertheless, even though Mary Magdalene cannot yet cling to Him, the faith of the Apostles is stirred by her message. They run to find the empty tomb and encounter the Lord for themselves. They hear His voice and speak to Him. They see His body. They touch His wounds. They eat with Him. But they cannot yet cling to Him.

Christian faith is not a self-generated psychological exercise. It is part of the new creation, the new humanity which the Risen Lord has established by His victory; his Gift of the Holy Spirit produces faith. This is why He ascended into Heaven. The Giver of Life could only descend on us if Christ ascended to His Father.

The Resurrection was not a mere restoration

of an earthly paradise — it creates access to heaven. This is a new humanity, with power that exceeds what this world can contain, which is filled with what is eternal.

What about us, here and now? The Risen Jesus longs that we be where He is; at the right hand of the Father. Now we can only cling to Him by faith.

Christian contemplation and theology converge on the objective and personal presence of the Risen Lord. By objective, we know He is present to us quite apart from whether we feel or imagine Him. By personal, we know that our faith opens up a real heart-to-heart relationship with Him. This is not fairy-tale stuff— it is the substance of our hope.

“Through the Resurrection humankind came to believe in God in a new way; man’s relationship to God was changed; a whole new vision of God and His intention for humanity was made possible; the whole flow of time and history was redirected.

This objective and personal faith is not limited to knowing things about the Lord; the Christian faith discloses the mysterious depths of God, so that, we can really know Him and His great love. To know these depths, to plummet them in prayer, to search them in sacred doctrine — such things raise us up with Him, so that, we might dwell with him. In all this the fullness of joy is ours, even now in a hidden way, here below. The banquet has begun

in mystery, and all this as we learn to cling to Him.

Open your heart in faith to Christ and His promises. You are destined, if you do so, to share Christ’s own life: you are to be resurrected as he is resurrected; you are to live a life of unending love as He does; you are to live forever in eternal communion with God, the Father. What beauty lies before you!

Now, this Gold Nugget: “Through the Resurrection humankind came to believe in God in a new way; man’s relationship to God was changed; a whole new vision of God and His intention for humanity was made possible;

the whole flow of time and history was redirected. Nevertheless, too much stress on the bodily Resurrection keeps us from defining the resurrection solely in terms of what God has done for men. The Resurrection was and remains, first of all, what God has done for Jesus. It was not an evolution in human consciousness, nor was it the disciples' brilliant insight into the meaning of the crucifixion – it was the sovereign action of God glorifying Jesus of Nazareth. Only because God has done this for His Son have new possibilities opened for His many children, who have come to believe in what He has done" (The Virginal

Conception and Bodily Resurrection of Jesus, Raymond Brown - "for nearly 40 years Father Brown caught the entire Church up into the excitement and new possibilities of scriptural scholarship").

The Punch Line! He is Risen! He is Risen! Alleluia! Amen! That is the best news we can possibly tell a dying world!

And, this final flourish! The Bible speaks of creation as virtually the finger-painting of God, while the resurrection of Christ required the strong arm of God! It is His mighty work!



THERE IS NO
JOY GREATER
THAN THE JOY OF
GIVING.

THE JOY OF GIVING

*Letters from some
Benefactors and
Friends of our
Balbhavan Children*

Allwyn D'Souza, Vasai

Please find enclosed a cheque for ₹.3000/- as my gift for your orphans. Please pray for us. Thank you.

S.A. Ambrose, Rajkot

Please accept my humble donation of ₹.4500/- for your charitable works, especially taking care of orphan boys. Kindly remember me and my family in your daily prayers.

Mathew P. Mathews, Kottayam

Enclosed is a cheque of ₹.5000/- as my gift for your Balbhuvan children.

Will appreciate your kind prayers. Thanking you.

B.S. Mehta, Muscat

I am pleased to forward herewith a D/D for ₹.5000/- being my donation for your orphan boys. Kindly pray for us.

Daphney Monsurate, Dubai

I am enclosing a cheque of ₹.5000/- for the needs of the orphan boys. This is my thanks giving offering for favours received and for the success of my son in his exams. Thanks and with regards.

*"To get the full value of joy you must have
someone to divide it with."*

— Mark Twain;

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Market Day at Vidyankur

Market Day activity was conducted by the Pre-primary Section on the 1st February 2018. Director Rev.Fr. Agnelo Gomes inaugurated the Market Day. There were different stalls of vegetables, fruits, stationary, grocery, newspaper and bangles. Some students were dressed up as community

helpers. The purpose of this activity was to make the kids understand the value of money and dignity of Labour and also to educate them about buying and selling. The parents of UKG kids were also invited to be a part of this activity.



A Fruit a day makes your day



Breaking News



Caps for sale



Go Green



Happy Sellers



Parents admiring the market



Our TinyTraders



To Market ,To Market

A PIONEER'S EFFORT TO EMPOWER THE NATION CROSSES THE MILESTONE OF 60 YEARS

Early Snapshots :



Mr. V P Naik Chief Minister of Maharashtra,
Mrs. Gandhi and Fr. Superior enjoying a joke



Volunteers from Austria, April 6th, 1973.



Mrs. Gandhi being received



Left - Fr. Superior delivering his Welcome Speech



Mrs. Gandhi inaugurating the Plaque



Bishop Pimenta blessing the College Building



The Prime Minister is delighted to see herself as a graceful epitome of our National Leaders, depicted in a tableau by our bijoux.



Mrs. Gandhi inspecting the jobs done by our students. Mr Shenoy, B.Tech. IIT Madras, Workshop Superintendant explainsthe mechanics of the course.



Dignitaries & guests at the Ashram on the occasion of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visit

FCRIT, Vashi students bag a prize at Project Deep Blue



A city-wide three-month competition was conducted by Mastek and Majesco called Deep Blue in which over 300 teams participated from colleges across Mumbai. In the finale, conducted on 17 February, 2018 in K.J. Somaiya, a team from Fr. C Rodrigues Institute of Technology, Vashi bagged the

second runners up.

The competition challenged the students to provide solutions for any of the 5 problem statements. The team from Fr.CRIT, Vashi, proposed and implemented a solution for face recognition for occluded faces for an NGO named Sankara.

Team members: Manish Manepalli, Kartik Jain, Jude D'Silva, Noble Kolarikkal from the Department of Computer Engineering of the Institution under the guidance of Mr. Sameer Naik from Majesco worked tirelessly and successfully developed and presented a complete solution for the same at the finale.

Agnelite wins the prestigious Shiv Chattrapati Award for sports excellence from the Govt. of Maharashtra



Scholarship Awardees

Agnel Swimmer Viraj Prabhu has been conferred the Shiv Chhatrapati Award by the Government of Maharashtra for his swimming achievements for the year 2014-2015. The award was presented to him at a

glittering ceremony by Shri Vinod Tawade, Hon. Minister for Sports and Education, Government of Maharashtra in the presence of Hon. Mayor of Mumbai and several other dignitaries.

Viraj has been swimming since the age of 7. He won his first national Gold medal at the age of 10 along with a National Record to boost. Since then Viraj has won several gold medals at the Age Group as well as the school nationals. He was selected to represent India at the World School Games Gymnasiade 2014 held in Brasil. He also represented India at the Asian Age Swimming championships in Bangkok in 2015. Viraj trains at the Fr. Agnel's Sports Center in Vashi under Coach Gokul Kamath who is an ex Agnelite himself.

Visit of Hon'ble Minister for Education Shri Vinod Tawde

On 2nd February 2018, Maharashtra State Minister for Education, Sports, Youth & Cultural Affairs Shri. Vinod Tawde visited Agnel Technical Education Complex in Sector 9A, Vashi. This was his first visit to our complex where he had the opportunity to interact with Heads of the different institutes run by Agnells in Navi Mumbai.

The meeting was held at our newly opened Centre for Incubation and Business Acceleration (CIBA). Shri. Tawdeji did a quick walk through of CIBA and interacted with one of the startups as well.

The students of middle school welcomed the Hon'ble Minister with the Agnel Anthem.

Thereafter Rev Fr. Saturnino Almeida introduced the various key senior members of the Agnells family.

Given the limited time that the Minister had at his disposal, a short “Agnells in a minute” video was shown where all the facilities of the institutes were shown. Our School Principal Ms. Snigdha Roy gave a good summary of the school, its history, its values and its accomplishments.

Shri Tawdeji was impressed by the progress of the school and invited the attendees to think beyond higher education and start thinking in the lines of “livelihood education”. The need to redefine learning outcomes and designing a new assessment based on percentile system were also discussed. He was engaging in more of a brainstorm session clearly expressing his

desire to bring about change in the system. He invited one and all to think out of the box with thought provoking questions like - Why can't the autonomous & private approach of universities and institutes of higher education be applicable to schools? Why can't schools have their own board and own assessment?

Fr. Ivon Almeida delivered the vote of thanks.

The Minister later twitted and posted on social media applauding the efforts of AGNELS. He stated “Future of Maharashtra and India is in the hands of our youths. Our PM Narendra Modi aims to empower their ambitions with initiatives like startupindia. It is incredible this aim materialise in form of ‘Centre for Incubation and Business Acceleration’ at Fr. Agnells, Navi Mumbai”

-Photos on back cover

“ Being Clean, Living Clean ” during Ashram Week

Traditionally we at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Pune and particularly at Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune celebrate ‘Ashram Day’ but this year it was different. We rather celebrated ‘Ashram Week’, based on the year's theme “Being Clean and Living Clean” and living upto the ideologies preached and practised by Mahatma Gandhi and by our patron Venerable Fr. Agnelo D'souza, a cleanliness drive was conducted. This Drive was undertaken by the entire school from the Pre-Primary to the Higher Secondary School, from 29th January to 2nd February. The various Ministries of the School Parliament conducted various activities throughout the week. Each day was allotted to clean different areas of the

school. First the students started by cleaning their own classrooms. Later they cleaned the corridors and playground areas. Besides these, other activities conducted were drawing and colouring activity, making poster's & banners with innovative slogans on cleanliness and also making paper bags which were then distributed in and out-side the campus. Some students and staff representatives of the school went to meet the Corporators of the area to impress on the importance of creating clean neighbourhoods. Thus the students besides enjoying these activities learnt a valuable lesson on cleanliness and its importance for healthy living.

Let the resurrection job lift us from loneliness
and weakness and despair to strength and
beauty and happiness

- Floyd W Tamkins

From Cross to Resurrection

-Christine D'Sylva

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime- Martin Luther.

The risen life of Jesus is the nourishment and the strengthening and blessing and life of a Christian- Alexander MacLaren.

The Easter message is one of great hope to Christians all over the world.

It is said by some that Easter is of far greater significance than Christianity for while Christmas celebrates the birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, it is Easter that makes Christianity so relevant and triumphant today.

Jesus Christ died on the Cross for our sins. He paid the price of our sins by his blood.

However, if it all ended just with the Crucifixion, then Christianity would not have spread worldwide today. It was the triumph of Christ's Resurrection that has rendered Christianity such a great religion. From the Cross to New life, that is the cornerstone that draws people to this wonderful path to salvation.

We are told by Jesus to carry our Cross each day. However, because of the Resurrection of Christ, we get hope that the Cross we carry is not the end. It symbolises the light at the end of the tunnel.

That light is the hope that Christ's Resurrection into Heaven brings us. It renders optimistic faith not pessimistic faith that views life darkly. We view life with new eyes, believing with faith that things can improve, our lives can get transformed for Jesus Christ who bore His Cross now has new life.

Jesus descended first, then he ascended. From the pits of the bottom in the cold lonely tomb, he ascended into that glorious place called

Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father.

This is good news, It puts a sparkle into our eyes. Do you agree? Then say Amen with strong conviction, because you are confirming your faith that all things are possible with God if we only believe. Just a small mustard seed of faith can make miracles happen in our life.

The Risen Lord appeared to his followers in different ways. He continues to meet people in different ways today. No two people can encounter Christ in quite the same way, yet the hand of Christ is unique. It touches lives differently, yet equally profound, causing transformation and miraculous change of hearts.

Once a woman lost her only daughter to her husband who murdered her. She was filled with rage and depression. She did her best to come to terms with her grief but nothing helped. But as soon as she met the Risen Lord in her life, transformation slowly began to take place. Note that no amount of therapy or counselling rendered the same healing effectiveness as her encounter with the Risen Lord.

She began to forgive this man who brutally murdered her daughter. With forgiveness came inner strength and a peace that nothing can give. Thus, we see that while each experience will be unique, yet the impact will be quite the same for hearts and lives get transformed, leading to a new relationship with Christ.

Let us conclude with the words of a popular hymn, "Risen Lord, No one can give to me that peace",

That peace that my Risen Lord, my Risen King can give.

To that let us say a heartfelt- Amen!

God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.

-Saint Augustine

Drifting from Rift Valley

-Chidanand Rajghatta

Genealogy more than history reminds us that we all came from the same place and were once black

The story of human migration is very expansive and inexact. It has plenty of holes and lot of dots. It has cunning passages and contrived corridors. The world's greatest anthropologist, paleontologists, genealogists, archeologists and others involved in the science skip over the holes cautiously, connect the dots hesitantly, navigate the routes tentatively, and string together evidence, speculation, and theory to arrive at conclusions, some of which have stood the test of time.

Unless you are a creationist who believes "God in heaven" or aliens in a spaceship from yonder carefully scattered animal and human species across the planet, the story of both human evolution and human migration, holes, warts, and accepted. It is agreed on the basis of reasonable evidence that humankind took its first outbound steps from Africa to Asia. As they schlepped across Asia Australia from Southeast Asia, while others doubled back north to Europe, populating that continent.

Of course, you can't expect white nationalists in the US and hypernationalists in India- which is also periodically in the throes of nativism- to absorb or process all this. They have little bandwidth for science, evolution, migration and other complex issues. For their leaders, it is easier to toss out red meat to nativist crowds and rile them up about immigrants and foreigners, rather than let them know that they too have DNA from the "shithole" continent.

Long before nativists in India settled on

the country being Indic or Sanskritic or Brahmanic or whatever terms they prefer to "otherise" rest of the population who choose to look beyond 5,000 years, it turns out that the subcontinent was open to two possible migration movements from Africa: One that set off some 60,000 years ago across into Asia further north at Red Sea some 50,000 years ago and went across the Caucasus before looping south into India.

Along the way both groups possibly mingled with Neanderthals and other hominid derivatives/species who may have migrated earlier, before the two streams met in the heart of India (not in one meeting but over scores of generations), providing the subcontinent with an exciting medley of migrations and mixing, and giving us almost every possible representative skin tone in the world.

So in one sense, except for the original inhabitants' descendants of the Rift Valley who may remain there, everyone on this planet, unconstrained by narrow nationalism, is an immigrant descendant of one kind or the other. Our ancestors saw this, which is why, in recognition of our mongrel status, they embraced the concept of vasudaiva kutumbakam – the world is one. This might hurt your feelings, but your holy cross or holy thread or holy book is not going to keep you pure, because you never were and you were never meant to be.

Courtesy: Times of India

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection,
not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.

-Martin Luther



Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

GOT GOOD MEDICAL REPORT

Dadar : As the doctor was suspecting some cardiac disorder in me, I was advised to take an Angiography C.T. test. I was very much worried. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel to get a normal report. I am now happy to inform you that by the blessing of Ven.Fr.Agnel the Angiography C.T. Report showed normal functioning of the heart.. My grateful thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel with an offering of ₹.500.

-Dinaz Karanjia

CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSE COMPLETED

Nallasopara : I was experiencing a lot of problems while getting my new house constructed. I had to face many obstacles while obtaining permission from the authorities concerned. I prayed fervently to Ven.Fr.Agnel to help me to overcome all these problems. By the grace of Ven.Fr.Agnel construction of my house has been completed. My thanks offering of ₹.500 to the Shrine of Ven.Fr.Agnel.

-Sylvia Lemos

CURED OF URINE PROBLEM

Seraulim-Goa : My brother had an infection that showed in his urine. His veins oozed water because of which his body was swollen. Later on he was unable to pass urine and was going through a lot of pain. At this moment I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel to cure him of his urine problem. He is now much better and does his normal work. My heartfelt gratitude to Ven. Fr.Agnel. I pray that he may soon be declared a saint.

OVERCAME LEGAL HASSLES

Santacruz: For over a year I had been trying to get Occupancy Certificate for my building. I had to run from pillar to post but all my efforts were in vain. I was really fed up with all the legal hassles. In despair but with great hope

I turned to Ven.Fr.Agnel and fervently prayed for his intercession in this case. I am now extremely happy to inform you that by the blessing of Ven.Fr.Agnel I got the O.C. within a short time and also many other favours through his heavenly intercession. As a token of my sincere thanks an offering of ₹.1000 to the Ashram.

-Mathew Fernandes

FERVENT PLEA ANSWERED

Dubai: Wife of my friend could not feed her new born child as her B.P. had shot up. They were very much worried. I advised them to pray to Ven.Fr.Agnel. The next day I got a call from them that her Blood Pressure had come down to normal level and she was feeling much better and could attend to her child. Their child is now keeping good health. Their thanksgiving offering follows.

-Sussan D'Souza

CURED OF TOOTH INFECTION

Porvorim-Goa: I had undergone an operation for thyroid. Eight years later I had a tooth extracted after which an infection set in. I took various medicines but there was no relief. The Doctor advised me to get admitted in Manipal Hospital. I was worried and with great faith pleaded with Ven.Fr.Agnelo to cure me of this ailment. Indeed Fr.Agnelo has worked a miracle as the sonography report confirmed the cure. My sincere thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnelo and I pray for his early beatification.

-Jenerosa Fernandes Esteves

SUCCESS IN EXAMINATION

Dubai: Daughter of my friend was very distressed as her final exam was scheduled. I showed them the picture of Ven.Fr.Agnel and asked them to pray for his blessings. She has now recovered from her tension and passed

the exam with flying colors. Moreover she got a very lucrative placement in France. Their thanks offering to Ven.Fr. Agnel follows.

-Sussan D'Souza

MULTIPLE FAVOURS

Bandra : My elder sister was unable to walk for several months due to acute pain on her legs. I fervently prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel for her speedy recovery. Now by the grace of Ven. Fr.Agnel she is able to walk without any help. My niece got a suitable job and a life partner. Her marriage was successfully held through the blessings of Ven.Fr.Agnel. With a grateful heart an offering of ₹.1000 to the Ashram.

-Sr. Domenic

RECOVERY FROM COLD AND ASTHMA

Quepem-Goa : My one-year old daughter caught cold which developed to pneumonia and she also had a bout of asthma. She was kept in the ICU of a hospital in Margao for three days. Despite much medical treatment given there was no improvement in her condition. The doctor said that he could not do anything more and advised us to admit her in a hospital in Panjim. On examining the Doctor said that she was very serious and he could not guarantee her survival and exhorted us to pray to God. At that moment I thought of Ven.Fr.Agnel and prayed earnestly to him to save our child. I am glad to say that my child has recovered well. My heartfelt gratitude to Ven.Fr.Agnelo.

-Connie Cardoso

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>

Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ, and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.

-C. S. Lewis

Out of Their Bounty

P. Srivastava	Mumbai	50000	F. Almeida	Mumbai	2000	A.D. Patel	Navsari	501
K. Vaz	Mumbai	40000	P. Fernandes	Mumbai	2000	D.F. Motafaram	Mumbai	501
Y. S. Randeira	Mumbai	20000	Lucy Pinto	Mumbai	2000	Samta P. Pandya	Mumbai	501
B. Fernandes	Delhi	20000	B. Antony	Kerala	2000	Neil Louis	Mumbai	500
Jayan D'Souza	Mumbai	18000	O. D'Sa	Mumbai	2000	A. Shetty	Mumbai	500
R. Fernandes	Pune	15000	A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	S. Desai	Mumbai	500
Parag R. Ved	Mumbai	14000	S.J. Eustachius	Nagpur	1500	Priti P. Pereira	Virar	500
M.I. Shah	Ahmedabad	11000	A. Henriques	Thane	1200	S. F. Pinto	Vasai	500
N. Mark Anthony	Mumbai	10000	S.N. Irani	Mumbai	1111	S.V. Trivedi	Mumbai	500
D. Parmar	Nagar Haveli	9900	S. B. Karundwadi	Kolhapur	1100	Lily J. D'Souza	Thane	500
Prasad S Gawde	Vashi	9000	P. Oberoi	Delhi	1100	C. Mange	Thane	500
Nelson D'Souza	Mumbai	9000	D.C. Mehta	Mumbai	1001	Mary D'Souza	Naigaon	500
R. Barboza	Mira Rd.	9000	Veena C. Mehta	Mumbai	1001	M.M. Shinde	Palghar	500
Warner Pereira	Vasai	8000	Christina	Mumbai	1001	John Xavier	Dahisar	500
J Engineering	T.N.	7000	Rutty Birdy	Mumbai	1001	Andrew Lobo	Mumbai	500
O.M. Olpadwala	Mumbai	6,000	M.s. Pavri	Mumbai	1001	S. V. Dabre	Vasai	500
D. Thomas	Kerala	6000	Priyona Boat	Bhayander	1000	P. Pereira	Mumbai	500
T.F. Correia	Vasai	5000	A.R. Dabre	Nirmal	1000	Milton Hoggens	Australia	500
S. Saldanha	Mangalore	5000	M.B. Patel	Mira Road	1000	A. Vincent	Mumbai	500
P.T. Lopes	Vasai	5000	R. Mistry	Bilimora	1000	M.J. Lam	Nashik	500
L.I. Menezes	Vasai	5000	Jane D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	M.J. Sheth	Mumbai	500
M. Muckaden	Mumbai	5000	Troy D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	P.M. Braganza	Mumbai	500
N.J. Gunderia	Mumbai	5000	Rani Joseph	Bangalore	1000	Hilda Fernandes	Mumbai	500
C.V. Colaco	Thane	5000	P.N. Mathias	Mumbai	1000	K.S. Rao	Mumbai	500
S. C. Ambo	Thane	5000	Selwin George	Oman	1000	M. Kumble	Mumbai	500
C.J. Ariwala	Mumbai	5000	Dominic Pereira	Mumbai	1000	C. Rodrigues	Bangalore	500
M.H. Ariwala	Mumbai	5000	Johny Kathi	Vasai	1000	K. Kharbari	Mumbai	500
D. Quadras	Mumbai	5000	Leonilla D'Souza	Naigon	1000	H.B. Barjorji	Mumbai	500
S.J. D'Mello	Virar	5000	P. J. Desai	Valsad	1000	T. M. Barjoji	Mumbai	500
Urvi Agency	Bhayander	5000	A/. G. Kelawalla	Mumbai	1000	Mathew Pinto	Mumbai	500
Anjali Gupta	Mumbai	5000	H.S. Waghele	Surat	1000	F.K. Bharucha	Mumbai	500
M.K. Bhatti	London	4500	R. Rajan	Mumbai	1000	K.H. Ganatra	Mumbai	500
M.P. John	Kerala	3000	V.M. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	A. Boney	Kerala	500
I. Henriques	T.N.	3000	Nancy Carlo	Mumbai	1000	S. Saldanha	T.N.	500
H. Z. Bharucha	Vasai	3000	A. Antonyraj	T.N.	1000	S. Chettiar	Mumbai	500
R.N. Mary	Mangalore	3000	H.N. Nagarwalla	Mumbai	1000	G.B. Pillai	Gujarat	500
L. Monteiro	Mangalore	3000	F. Rebello	Mumbai	1000	Lilly D'Souza	Mumbai	500
C.J. Moras	Mangalore	3000	V.S. Bilolikar	Mubai	1000	Jeome D'Souza	Mumbai	500
Sybel D'Mello	Vasai	2500	G.R. Rana	Thane	1000	N. S. Hadkar	Dombivli	500
B.V. Asani	Mumbai	2500	J. Rodrigues	Mumbai	1000	A. Shah	Mumbai	300
R.T. Hingorani	Mumbai	2100	Rusi Shroff	Mumbai	1000	J. Mathew	Kerla	300
Ila H. Patel	Mumbai	2000	A.D. Ghosal	Vasai	1000	K. Alphonsa	Kerala	300
P. Kishore	Kerala	2000	A.G.A. Mohal	Mumbai	1000	M.J. Pereira	Pune	300
V. Carvalho	Vasai	2000	Alapatt Brothers	Kerala	1000	B.g. Desai	Mumbai	251
A. Nadar	Dharavi	2000	A. Devassy	Thane	1000	M. Macwana	Virar	201
C. George	Oman	2000	K.K. Karkaria	Mumbai	1000	S. Das	Assam	201
Calvin George	Oman	2000	F.E. Gonsalves	Vasai	1000	Celine Rodrigues	Mumbai	200
S. George	Mumbai	2000	R.R. Chavan	Mumbai	1000	Gracy Mathew	Mumbai	200
M.d. Lopes	Mumbai	2000	N. Simon	Kerala	1000	A. Joseph	Kerala	200
B.A. Pereira	Vasai	2000	S. D'Cruz	Kerala	1000	F.J. Rebello	Ahedabad	200
George Lobo	Mumbai	2000	V.D. Khumbar	Khopoli	1000	N.S. Tribhuvan	Pune	200
C.E. Varghese	Mumbai	2000	Jaison P.A.	Kerala	1000	A.S. Khandangle	Ahmednagar	200
M.S. Nathani	Mumbai	2000	A.J. Pinto	Dombivli	1000	B. Joseph	Kerala	200
Julia roach	Coimbatore	2000	J. Kapadia	Mumbai	702	V.A. Vincent	Kerala	200
Phyllis D'Abreo	Mumbai	2000	Y. Trivedi	Mumbai	502	P. McCoy	T.N.	200
G.T. Tekchandani	Mumbai	2000	D.D. Patel	Navsari	501	D. Sebastian	Kerala	200
Maj. Chemmanoor	Karnataka	2000	C.D. Patel	Navsari	501			

Annual Day at Fr.Agnel,Vashi



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Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School celebrating Ashram Day



A Broom To Groom The Lawn



Being Clean And Living Clean



Clean Corridors And Ventilators



Cleanliness Drive



Clean Vidyankur Green
Vidyankur



Day 3-Drawing And Coloring
Activity



Day 4- Making Paper Bags



Spic And Span - Stilt Area



Skit On Importance Of Cleanliness



Clenliness Is Next To Godliness



Day 4- Poster Making Activity



Spreading Awareness Through
Poster Making Activity