



FR. AGNEL

ASHRAM NEWS

October 2025



*Light a lamp of love,
spread sparkle all around.*

HAPPY DIWALI!

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[website : www.agnelashram.org](http://www.agnelashram.org)**VEN. FR. AGNELO'S 98TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY****Thursday, 20th November 2025****PROGRAMME****SPECIAL NOVENA SERVICES | 11TH TO 19TH NOVEMBER 2025****Every day****Morning** : 7.00 a.m. & 9.30 a.m.: Holy Mass and Novena Prayer in English.**Evening** : 6.00 p.m. : Holy Mass and Novena Prayer in English.**N.B.**

On 16th November, all Masses and Novena Services will be held as on normal Sundays.

**20TH NOVEMBER (THURSDAY) : 98TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF VENERABLE FR. AGNELO****Morning** : Mass followed by Novena Prayers at 7.00 a.m. & 9.30 a.m.**Evening** : A Solemn Concelebrated Mass will be held at 6.00 p.m. in the Ashram Compound, followed by Novena Prayers.

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**

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MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL SUPERIOR



At the very outset, I would like to thank our outgoing Regional Superior, Rev. Fr. Bento Rodrigues, for his immense contribution to the Society of Pilar and the further development of the Agnel Region.

I congratulate and warmly welcome Rev. Fr. Valerian D' Souza as the 1st Councillor and Rev. Fr. Agnelo Gomes as the 2nd Councillor and wish them all success.

I also thank all the SFX Fathers and Brother for coming from different parts of India and attending the Installation Ceremony of the new Regional Council at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra on 29th September 2025. May the Almighty God bless each one of us!

We begin the month of October, marking the International Day of Older Persons on the 1st. We applaud the contributions of elderly people to society. We gain from their experience, wisdom and knowledge. On our part, we should make it a point to visit the sick and the elderly. Out of loneliness, they long for someone to visit them.

As far as possible, we should take care of our elderly parents and not keep them in old age homes. Some elderly people like megastar Amitabh Bachchan and English musician Mick Jagger at 82, besides American investor Warren Buffett at 95, are still going strong and are an inspiration to all of us.

Marking the 156th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October, we celebrate the International Day of Non-Violence. We learn from the Father of the Nation's principles of truth, non-violence, and peaceful resistance, in leading India's independence movement.

On the International Day of the Girl Child on 11th October, we reaffirm our commitment to work for girls' rights, education, and empowerment. "When you teach a child, you educate a family." An educated girl becomes a more influential and educated "mother" of the future family and community.

After the Foundation Day of the Society of Pilar on 20th September, we now celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Pilar, the patroness of the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier (SFX) on 12th October.

October being the month of the Rosary, let us make it a good habit to recite the prayer daily.

After Dussehra, we celebrate Diwali this month. It signifies light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. **Happy Diwali!**

- Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho
Regional Superior

LET'S JUST AGREE TO DISAGREE

-Fr. Peter Fernandes, SFX

Today's public opinion, though it may appear as light as air, may become tomorrow's legislation - for better or for worse. A history divided on this topic, which makes many think that for the sake of peaceful coexistence, "Let's just agree to disagree."

When people disagree about morality, politics, or religion, there's just not much we can do about it. We can't force them to agree. As a matter of fact, the more we try to make people change their minds, the less likely it is that we'll succeed. The history of political and religious wars makes this quite clear.

The whole world is witnessing such despicable attitudes of humans in the current war between Israel and Palestine, Russia and Ukraine and in India, where the persecution of other minorities (many other countries have similar scenarios) continue to rock human society. Debate is endless and unproductive. What we need is peace. Is this the right way to achieve peace?

Peace is what we want, but it seems like we only want a cessation of hostilities. Real peace has to be built on some harmony of vision, not mutual disengagement. For that reason, discussion on ideas is imperative, and it ought to be with an open mind to seek justice and truth. The founding fathers of the nation and the father of the Indian constitution understood this aspect and debated extensively, before promulgating the constitution, what we celebrate as Republic Day. Toleration and compromise: these are the twin pillars of democracy. Holding these pillars of democracy, the preamble explains the collective wisdom for a peaceful coexistence in a pluralistic Indian society, "We the people of India," and to thrive as one nation under one flag. It is said we should agree to disagree when it avoids meaningless controversy, but we should never agree that avoiding controversy is better than finding justice and truth.

Since 2014, Indian democracy has come under a severe threat and is virtually lost in translation, especially for those who seriously think and desire to live in freedom. The Prime Minister of India, otherwise a great orator, has refused to give a single press conference. This attitude is unbecoming for a viable and healthy democracy. Besides, his absence

from the parliament session is deplorable. The parliament sessions were supposed to be with an open mind to find the right solutions for existential difficulties and problems, based on those two pillars of democracy, namely, toleration and compromise.

Indeed, the process to establish justice and truth can be slow and painful and will require a good deal of patience, honesty, and consistency. There are no doubts about real differences existing, and some of them we may not be able to settle our disagreement on. But we've got to try. The alternative isn't peace and well-being: it's isolation and suspicion. The BJP led government is hiding behind the huge mandate

and is ably supported by the Godi media from any serious discussion and debate. The independent democratic pillars are compromised (a slogan "Vote Chori" is reverberating) for the advantage of the ruling dispensation, and the

opposition is demonized and sidelined. The minorities are made to live under suspicion and fear. The recent arrest of two nuns at a railway station is one of the many and growing atrocities against minorities.

It is imperative to understand, especially in a pluralistic country like India, to prosper, we need the peace that comes from mutual respect with an open mind that desires justice and truth. Why is the BJP government running away from serious discussion and debate? It is obvious that they have an insidious hidden agenda, which is not so concealed. As for a healthy democracy, openness is of paramount importance. Therefore, whichever party forms the government should uphold the principle of 'let's agree to disagree' with the two pillars of democracy, namely, toleration and compromise with openness to find justice and truth.

It is pitiful that the Indian parliament is turned into a monologue by the ruling dispensation, and the voices of dissent are systematically silenced, as the nation is watching with contempt, even as Godi-media is celebrating the decline of true democracy. Can an enforced silence solve India's problems? A sudden resignation by Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Vice-President of India, who is also the ex-officio chairman of the Rajya Sabha, raises several red flags



concerning the democracy of India. It seems that the ruling dispensation made the famous song, “The sound of silence” as their anthem song. The then Prime Minister, the late Manmohan Singh, was criticized and termed by this same ruling dispensation as 'Maunmohan' (Maun in Hindi means silence).

Over a decade, we have 'Maunmohan 2' in the person of Narendra Modi, who is silent on several pressing national and international issues and wants to subdue the issues by silencing the opposition. Take, for example, when Manipur was burning, he chose to remain silent. Manipur is still burning. He is not forthcoming on terror attacks and security breaches, even with US claims of mediation between India and Pakistan. Chinese infiltration on the border is kept under wraps. No answer when asked about not fulfilling promises made to farmers, including the promise of doubling farmers income by 2022, and for not addressing the issue of Minimum Support Price for farmers crops.

It is necessary to ask some important questions. Why are the violations of human rights and attacks on democratic institutions overlooked? How is it that Adani's coffer keeps increasing, even as the issue of unemployment and inflation goes unnoticed? The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, in a post on X, said, “If you ask questions in the country, there is silence. If you ask abroad, it is a personal matter.” Therefore, a question arises: did Jagdeep Dhankhar (who was for the most part a flagbearer of BJP, but in recent times felt pain of his conscience) resign or get sacked? It's not a joke, but let's agree to disagree!

The fundamental principle of democracy, “Let's agree to disagree,” was to pursue justice and truth, which is frowned upon by those who desire absolute power. In recent times, for a few dollars more, Indian media, also called Godi-media, has assisted and continues to assist in killing the principle of democracy. Silence is detrimental to the growth and progress of democracy, and silence is all we have had for over a decade. The mainstream

media is ironically loud on television (to promote the agenda of the ruling dispensation) only to silence the voice of opposition. If we're serious about seeking peace, we agree that we should care about our world and try to make it better. If we're to take each other's ideas seriously about how to achieve this peace, we agree in our commitment to finding the truth. In Godi-media these important components are looked down on with disdain at the behest of the present dispensation, and gullible masses are oblivious to the fact that they are taken for a ride with a hope, “*Achhe din aane waale hain.*”

In 2014, BJP promised a vibrant and participatory democracy, inclusive and sustainable development, quality of life, productive youth, a globally competitive economy, open and transparent government, and proactive and pro-people governance in its manifesto. *Achhe din aane waale hain!* Time for change, time for Modi. For the last eleven or so years, not only have these promises not been kept, but the government of the day has also proactively worked to subvert the constitution and democracy by silencing the voice of dissent.

It would be wise for the government and the Godi-media to hear the echo of the principle of democracy, and to work and make things better for the nation for today and tomorrow: be wise and not otherwise. So, let's face it. We'll never agree about morality, politics, or religion. But there is a way that we can still have peace. Let's just agree to disagree in pursuit of justice and truth.



Fr. Peter Fernandes is Incharge of the Bursar's Desk at Pilar, Goa. He is a regular contributor of articles to various publications. His contact: petfern85@gmail.com

READER'S FEEDBACK

We have increased the number of pages of *Fr. Agnel Ashram News*, from 20 to 28, to bring you more interesting articles. We would love to hear from you. Share your views at agnelashramnews@gmail.com

This magazine is available online.

Visit us at www.agnelashram.org

DIWALI, THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

-Jubel D'Cruz

Diwali (also spelt/pronounced as Deepavali), is a festival of lights that brings joy in the hearts of people. It is a festival of fun, laughter, mouth-watering sweets, new outfits and fireworks. It is one of the most beautiful season of the year. It is a time filled with light and love; a time when Indians all over the world rejoice. It is the darkest night of the darkest period, yet it is a celebration of light. The meaning of Diwali, its symbols and rituals, are the reasons for the celebration.

Diwali celebrates Lord Rama's glorious and long-awaited return to his kingdom at Ayodhya after his 14 years of exile in the forest. It commemorates Lord Krishna's victory over the demon king Narakasura, who had kidnapped and terrorised the gopis of Vrindavan. It is also celebrated as the day Lord Vishnu married Goddess Lakshmi. Diwali is also associated with the story of the fall of Bali, a demon king, who was defeated by Lord Vishnu. In general, Diwali signifies the triumph of good over evil, of righteousness over treachery, of truth over falsehood, and of light over darkness.

However, Diwali is not just a festival of lights in order that we may burn diyas, fireworks and sparklers. Sure, these are wonderful ways of expressing our gaiety. Diwali is a festival of lights that dispels the darkness of our ignorance; it is a festival of the light which shows us the way on our journey through life.

The purpose is not to glorify the light of the candle or the firecrackers. The purpose is to glorify the light of God. It is God who bestows the real light, the everlasting light upon the darkness of this mundane world. A candle burns out, a firework is a momentary visual experience, but the candle of a still mind and the fireworks of a heart-filled with devotion are divine and eternal - these are what we should be celebrating.

We decorate our homes with lanterns. But what is the symbolism behind that? Those lanterns signify God's light, penetrating through the ignorance and sins of our daily lives. They signify the divine light,

shining its way through this mundane world. A home bathed in light is a home in which anger, pain and ignorance are being dispelled; it is a home that is calling to God.

However, too many people turn this into a domestic beauty contest, spending days and a great deal of money to purchase the costliest diyas and the most beautiful candles. This is only the light of glamour, it is not the light of God. The light of Diwali should be within us. It should symbolise our personal relationship between God and our families. Let the light penetrate inward, for only then it will have a lasting benefit. A piece of cotton soaked in ghee lit with a pure heart, a conscious mind and a desire to be free from ignorance is far brighter than a 100 expensive electric bulbs or earthen lamps.

But sadly, today people are forgetting the real meaning of Diwali. For them, it is not a festival of lights, but a festival of crackers. With every household

burning crackers, noise pollution and air pollution increases. It causes more sickness to the already sick and suffering people. Diwali must be celebrated in an eco-friendly manner. Noisy crackers and those crackers emitting a lot of toxic gases should not be burnt. People are prone to breathing problems when they inhale smoke. Those suffering from asthma, bronchitis and hypertension suffer a lot. Firecrackers that flood the markets constitute 75 per cent of saltpetre (potassium nitrate), 15 per cent of carbon, and 10 per cent of sulphur. When lighted, the combination of these chemicals generates poisonous oxides. Exposure to chemicals is a threat even while storing or carrying firecrackers. If we cannot refrain from burning crackers, then let us at least make Diwali safe. Plastic sheets from the rooftop of houses should be removed in order to avoid accidental fires during Diwali, especially when burning dangerous firecrackers like rockets and atom bombs.

On the other hand, we waste a lot of money on bursting crackers during Diwali. It would be better if we would use the same money for the upliftment of the poor. There are millions of people all over the world who do not even get two square meals of food



to eat a day. Instead of spending money on bursting firecrackers which goes up in smoke, we should donate the same money to an orphanage or a home for the aged. At least the people who are left there to die by their ungrateful children will feel happy.

Firecrackers create a lot of noise pollution and cause a lot of distress to animals and birds. We should avoid them if possible, or localise their use in a community to an open field. We should also clear up the mess once the festivities gets over.

Diwali is also celebrated as Kali Puja in the eastern region of India, i.e. the Bengal part.

These days, eco-friendly or a green Diwali is being promoted. It is recommended that we use only organic materials for celebrating the festival and avoid the bursting of firecrackers, as they can be harmful to the ecosystem and cause air and noise pollution.

Diwali is a five-day festival celebrated not only by Hindus but also by Sikhs and Jains. The five days of the festival are - Dhanteras, Chhoti Diwali, the main Diwali day (Lakshmi Pujan), Govardhan Puja, and Bhai Dooj.

The first day of the festival dedicated to wealth and

prosperity, is marked by the worship of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Kubera. The second day known as Naraka Chaturdashi (or Chhoti Diwali) is associated with the victory of good over evil and the cleansing of the soul. The third day of Diwali is the main day of Diwali, where people worship Goddess Lakshmi, seeking blessings for wealth and prosperity. The fourth day of Diwali celebrates Lord Krishna's victory over Lord Indra and is also known as Annakut or Govardhan Puja.

Bhai Dooj is the final day of Diwali. It celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters, with sisters applying tilak (sectarian mark) on their brothers' foreheads and exchanging gifts.



Jubel D'Cruz is a freelance writer and the author of several books for children. He also writes letters to the editor for newspapers and magazines all across India on various social, national and environmental issues. He lives in Dombivili, Mumbai.



There is no Joy Greater than the Joy of GIVING

Ninette D'Souza, Mahim, Mumbai

I would like to donate the token of appreciation given to me at a school orientation for parents of children. The contribution of Rs. 10,000 is towards the education of the Balbhavan children. This is on behalf of my late son, Aurelius D'Souza. He was very keen about education of children and would make sure the children of our workers all went to school, even if it was in a vernacular language.

Linto Joy, Panvel

I am happy to donate Rs. 2500 via NEFT as a mini sponsorship for two Balbhavan boys.

Lynette Lillian D'Cruz, Mumbai

On the occasion of Mother Mary's birthday, I am donating an amount of Rs. 2,000 as a gift for the Balbhavan boys.

Millie Fernandes, Borivali, Mumbai

I am pleased to contribute an amount of Rs. 15,000 via cheque as a full sponsorship for a Balbhavan child. The talented children recently put up exciting games and food stalls at the Bandra Feast Fun Fair at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

Meena J. Porathur, Thrissur

I am happy to contribute an amount of Rs. 15,000 via UPI as a full sponsorship for a Balbhavan child.

Pinky Balsara, Mumbai

I am contributing an amount of Rs. 1,500 towards the daily needs of Balbhavan boys. The Ashram Fathers are seeing to their all-round development, from education to music.

Sagaya Anita Nadar, Mumbai

We are happy to donate an amount of Rs. 42,000 towards the welfare of Balbhavan boys. It is good to see them imbibe new skills and grow into responsible citizens of tomorrow.

Roy Diago Muniz, Mumbai

In gratitude and thanksgiving, I have donated an amount of Rs. 6,000 for the educational and other requirements of Balbhavan boys.

Zenyl Lopes, Vasai

I am pleased to send a thanksgiving offering of an amount of Rs. 2,000 for the favours received.

JESUS WAS WONDERFULLY HUMAN!

-Fr. Fio Mascarenhas, SJ

October is a month full of Saints' feasts, but for our topic about the humanity of Jesus we can do no better than to choose St. Luke, the Evangelist (October 18). His rich Gospel presents the human face of Jesus in a most lovable way. And though many Catholics look only one-sidedly at the Founder of Christianity, we must improve our understanding of the real Jesus.

We fully believe that Jesus Christ is a **Divine** Person who, about 2000 years ago, by God's will, obediently became a *Human* Person; and that after about 3 years of ministry in the Palestine of those days (Galilee, Samaria and Judea), he willingly died on the Cross to save humanity, and was raised again three days later on Easter Sunday. Therefore, he has been constituted the Saviour and Lord of all peoples, to whom every person must "*bend the knee*" in worship, and joyfully proclaim "*Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*"

But perhaps most disciples have forgotten (in practice at least), that **Jesus is also, and equally, a wonderfully Human Person**, our very own elder Brother (whose death and resurrection have won for us the free gift of also being transformed into sons and daughters of God the Father); and that our vocation and mission is to manifest to the world that Jesus is "my personal Model in life" by trying to pattern my mindset, my values, and my inter-personal relationships on this *human* Jesus' mindset, values, and relationships.

So let us take "a fresh look" at *this* Jesus, at our truly human brother. Did he laugh often? Did he cry? Did he get angry? Did he enjoy being with people? Did he reach out to the broken-hearted and needy? Did he even experience

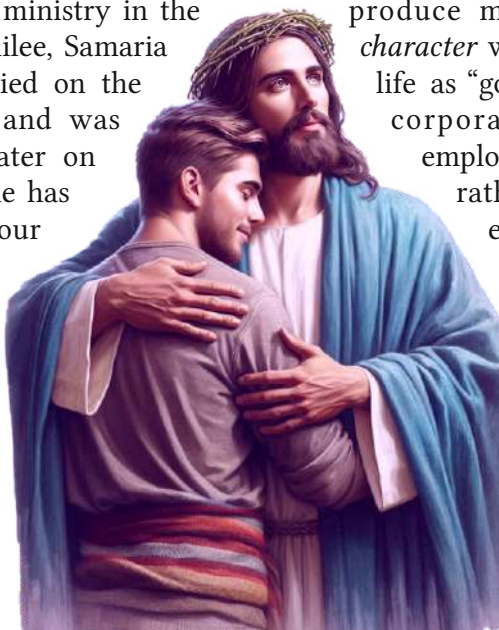
great fear – when, and where, and of what? Did he have friends – both female and male? Was he dim-witted or intelligent? What about his character – was he a weak person, or was he a trustworthy leader of excellent character?

The term "character" is used in our secular world to describe a person's worth. A person of "good" character is respected and admired in society. The main goal of our schools and universities is not so much to impart information and theoretical knowledge but to produce men and women of *good character* who will contribute to civic life as "good citizens." Multinational corporations also look to hire employees of excellent character, rather than only those with expertise in this or that field.

Similarly, for a Christian, to take Jesus as Model means not just manifesting piety, or religious fervor, or charismatic gifts, but it means growing up to become a person of "**Christlike character.**" St. Paul chose this very word to refer to the work

of the Holy Spirit in a Christian: "***Suffering produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us***" (Rom 5:3-5).

In fact, a major part of the Holy Spirit's activity in Jesus the Human Being was and is the fashioning of his sterling character: "***Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor***" (Lk 2:52, also 2:40). This means that Jesus, in his humanity, was being continually empowered by the Spirit to become mature in his special messianic character.



To form Jesus' character, the Holy Spirit needed, and generously received, **Jesus' personal cooperation**: his intense personal prayer life (daily seeking to be alone with his Father for hours at a time early in the morning or late into the night, not forgetting his 40 days in the desert struggling against worldly temptations); and his frequent "pondering" on the word of God as found in the Old Testament. In fact, Jesus became so familiar with Scripture that he was able to quote spontaneously from it as occasion arose – for example, in the Nazareth synagogue "*he unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written...*" about his mission (Luke 4:17); also, when asked about divorce he at once quoted from Genesis (Mark 10:5-9); and in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt chapters 5-7), he quoted from the Mosaic Law but ended by asserting something quite new, "*But I say to you...*" etc, etc.

Today too, God's Spirit is hard at work, trying to fashion the character of every human being, for in the final analysis, what the Spirit wants is to recreate the whole world of human behaviour, for God's greater glory. St. John Paul II explained well:

"The Church is supremely aware of the reality of the inner man, of what is deepest and incorruptible. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, this inner 'spiritual' man matures and grows strong ...The hidden breath of the Divine Spirit enables the human spirit to open in its turn before the saving and sanctifying self-opening to God. Through the gift of grace, man enters a 'new life,' 'he lives according to the Spirit' ...The Triune God transforms the human world from within, from inside hearts and minds ...and enables man ever more fully to find himself through a sincere gift of self" (1986 Encyclical, The Lord and Giver of Life, n.58).

These anointed words of Pope St. John Paul II are true, not just in a general way but first, about the work of the Spirit in the human Jesus – about his growth "*in stature, and wisdom, and in divine and human favour.*"

Therefore, in our quest for the real flesh-and-

blood Jesus, let us look with fresh eyes and new insight at the many Gospel passages which we may have read before, but perhaps only superficially. Let us read them again, contemplating the scenes, entering into the *feelings of Jesus* as he interacted with the different persons mentioned in this or that passage, and so capture the richness of each Gospel encounter.

IGNATIAN APPLICATION OF THE SENSES: An effective way of personally taking part in a Gospel scene is by using St. Ignatius of Loyola's contemplative prayer-method called "**Application of the senses**" or "Imaginative Prayer" (Spiritual Exercises, nn 121-126).

Herein the person contemplating starts by imagining, as vividly as possible, an interaction with Jesus and/or the other characters of the biblical scene, even becoming one of them!!! In this imaginative participation, the mind engages the heart. The aim of this mode of prayer is to make the events of salvation 'present' to us, and thus to attain a direct experience of God's love. Here are St. Ignatius' exact words about it from The Spiritual Exercises: n 121:

"It will be profitable with the aid of the imagination to apply the five senses to the subject matter being contemplated in the following manner; n 122: this consists in seeing in imagination the persons, and in contemplating in detail the circumstances in which they are; n 123: this is to hear what they are saying; n 124: to smell... n 125: to apply the sense of touch... always to draw some fruit from this."

Yes, the Wonderfully Human Jesus is waiting to be discovered by more Catholics. Wouldn't you like to be one of them? As a first exercise, re-read the comic story of Jesus and Zacchaeus, and have a good laugh at the way St. Luke presents the encounter!



Dr. Fr. Fiorello Mascarenhas, SJ recently celebrated his Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee and has his 29th book *WOMAN, BEHOLD YOUR SON!* published. His contact: frfiomas@gmail.com

THE MINISTRY OF ARCHANGELS

-Norma Kamath

Angels are spirits by nature, non-corporeal beings, created through and for God. (Col 1:16) They surpass man in perfection, as they behold the face of their Father in Heaven, adore and worship him, and are filled with God's splendour and glory.

They act as God's messengers, and they minister and serve those who are to be saved (Heb1:14).

Throughout Jesus' life on earth the angels ministered to him. The Archangel Gabriel acted as a messenger to the Virgin Mary, giving her the good news that she would conceive Jesus, the Son of God. At Jesus' birth the angel announced the birth of the Saviour to the shepherds, and they witnessed the multitude of heavenly hosts praising and glorifying God. At Christ's Ascension the angels announced to the Apostles, that Jesus had ascended into Heaven. The angels extend their ministry to us as well.

THE NINE CHOIRS OF ANGELS are a hierarchal order. The order is based on intelligence. The higher choirs have many eyes.

1.2.3.The SERAPHIM, THE CHERUBIM and THE THRONES are the first three orders of choirs. They have perfect understanding of God and contemplate God in the highest vision. They are filled with the fire of the love of God.

The Cherubim is mentioned for the first time in Gen 3:24 when the Lord drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, because of their disobedience to his Word, and he placed the Cherubim to the east of the garden with a flaming sword which turned every way to guard the way to the Tree of Life.

The Thrones are endowed with the seed of mercy and knowledge, and make judgements based on intelligence.

4. DOMINATIONS - are the fourth order. They govern the universe and the working of divine powers.

5. VIRTUES - are the fifth order. They have unshakeable courage.

6. POWERS - Some of the Powers were not faithful, and belong to the group of fallen angels. They are referred to as Satan or the devil. 'You have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who laid low the nations (Is14:12-15). Scripture speaks of the free choice of these created spirits, who radically and irrevocably rejected God. There is no repentance for angels after their fall, just as there is no repentance for men after death (CCC 392-393).

7. PRINCIPALITIES - Some of this group too became fallen angels.

8. THE ARCHANGELS - are seven in number and have a special place. They are outstanding in fidelity like the higher choirs.



MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL is called the Prince of Hosts. He is in charge of the armies of God, who are engaged in spiritual battles against the powers of darkness. In

Rev.12:7-9 mention is made of war that arose in Heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, Lucifer, the ancient serpent, the devil, who tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the deceiver of the whole world. He was defeated and was thrown down to earth, with his fallen angels. In Dan10:13 the angel explains to Daniel how he had to battle with Satan, the Prince of the Kingdom of Persia for twenty-one days, before Michael the Archangel came to his help. Satan's kingdoms are above the cities and nations influencing man's choices and decisions.

The ARCHANGEL GABRIEL, the messenger of the Good News to the Virgin Mary is of special significance.

THE ARCHANGEL RAPHAEL accompanied Tobias' son, Tobit in quest of the right partner for marriage, from among his kinsmen. He helped in

the healing of 'Tobias' eyesight from blindness.

Six of the Archangels are PATRON SAINTS OF THE SACRAMENTS -

GABRIEL, whose name means, 'God conquers,' is the patron saint of Baptism.

JEHUDIEL- whose name means, 'Praise of God,' is the patron saint of the healing of the sick.

RAPHAEL means 'God heals.' He is the patron saint of the Sacrament of Penance.

URIEL meaning 'Fire' or 'Flame of God,' is the patron saint of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

SEALTHIEL means 'Prayer of God.' He is the patron saint of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

BARACHIEL means 'Blessing of God.' He is the patron saint of Matrimony.

9. THE GUARDIAN ANGELS are ministering spirits who minister to man on the ways of God and the knowledge of God. Every person, Christian or non-Christian has a guardian angel. So great is God's plan for the salvation of all souls. "He will give his angels charge over you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone" (Ps 91: 11-12).

The angels are entrusted with a multiplicity of tasks. The higher angels enlighten those of the lower order in the understanding of God. During the mass the choirs of angels are present, and we pray 'Holy,

Holy, Holy' nine times in honour of the nine choirs of angels, to be strengthened and purified, and to help us understand things in the light of God's face and will. Rev 8:4 explains the significance of the incense at Mass, 'the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God.'

The power and the nature of the angels is beyond the grasp of man. They are fellow servants, who worship with us the Trinitarian God and reverence the Cross.

On Mother Mary's Assumption into Heaven she was crowned as the Queen of Angels and Saints. A dispenser of God's saving graces let us seek her intercession together with God's holy angels and saints who serve her, and invoke their help to draw closer to the Heart of God and his work of salvation.



***Norma Kamath** lives in Bangalore. She experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in 1983 and was called to serve in the intercessory, counselling and healing ministry.*

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

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Rev. Fr. Superior, Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand, Bandra (W), Mumbai-400 050. Tel. : 022 67114000

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Bandra

Bandra Feast Fun Fair at Fr. Agnel Ashram, a big success

The annual **Bandra Feast Fun Fair 2025** was held in the compound of Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra. Under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Superior, Rev. Fr. Trevor D'Souza, Director of Balbhavan and Rev. Fr. Alok Minj, Incharge of Balbhavan, the boys organised Food and Games Stalls. Paintings, baskets and other creative works of art were on display. The Fun Fair, organised in aid of Balbhavan boys, received an overwhelming response.



AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Greater Noida

Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida, emerges as the Runner-up in the CBSE Cluster XIX Basketball Championship

The Under-14 girls' basketball team of Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida, emerged as the **Runner-up in the CBSE Cluster XIX Basketball Championship**, organized by Sparsh Global School. The tournament featured a diverse range of schools from Uttarakhand, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Delhi NCR, Noida, Greater Noida, Bijnor, and Baghpat. About 300 teams competed in the Under-14, Under-17, and Under-19 girls' categories.

The team demonstrated exceptional skills, determination, and teamwork throughout the tournament. In their run up to the Quarter Finals, **Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida**, beat St. Xavier's High School, Ghaziabad 24-7, Aster Public School, Greater Noida 32-9, Tons Bridge School 38-12 and last year's winner team, Seth Anandram, Jaipur, 40-23.

In the Pre-Quarter Finals, **Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida**, secured a comfortable 25-15 win against Apeejay International School.

In the Quarter Finals, **Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida**, demonstrated their strength against Khaitan School, winning with a score of 28-17. In the Semi-Finals of the closely contested match, **Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida** edged out Amity International School, Noida, with a narrow margin of 17-15.

In the Finals, although **Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida**, played an excellent match, they narrowly lost to Fr. Agnel School, Noida, with a score of 17-21.

Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida, fought well and played like champions, showcasing their true potential and sportsmanship.



Rev. Fr. Bento Rodrigues (centre), with the basketball team.



The basketball team with their medals and trophy.

IN THE GARDEN OF ROSES: WALKING WITH MARY THROUGH THE ROSARY

-Severina Peres

Rosary beads of various colours and sizes, on display at the religious stores, catch my attention. I pick one as a remembrance of my visit to a Shrine or at the end of my Retreat. Some prefer to carry the Rosary around the neck, some keep one below their pillow and some in their pocket touching the beads from time to time. The word bead is derived from *bede*, meaning prayer. The Dominican Order of Preachers consider the Rosary a sacred mark of the Order. They wear the Rosary on the left side, the side on which soldiers bore the sword, praying the Rosary beads to break the strongholds of evil through their preaching as they moved from place to place.

Here's how praying the Rosary originated. In 1170, was born in Spain, St. Dominic Guzman, who as a youth acquired a devotion to Mary, imbibing a mix of vocal and mental prayer and heard stories from his mother on the life of Jesus that he would come to know as mysteries. In 1203, Dominic now a priest, faced distress at his lack of success in his preaching in refuting the Albigensian heretics who denied the divinity of Christ, renounced the sanctity of marriage and the procreation of children. Dominic turned to the Blessed Virgin Mary for help. Mary appeared to him, revealing the powerful weapon of the Holy Rosary to assist him in his labour to win souls. Dominic obeyed - piety, faith and union began to return (Supremi Apostolatus Officio, Pope Leo XIII).

How providential that Our Lord Jesus taught us to pray to God: Our Father and Mother Mary gave the Church the "Rosary." St. Dominic combined his preaching interspersed with the Psalter of our Lady as it existed then and this has eventually evolved into what the Rosary is today. St. John Paul (Rosarium Virgin Mariae) teaches us that to recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate the Face of Christ with Mary. He added the five Luminous mysteries in October 2002 (The Year of the Rosary), and now we can intertwine of our lives in Christ's birth, death,

resurrection and Christ's public ministry and His Sacramental life to the Church.

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on 7th October reminds us to count on Mother Mary, the Mediatrix of all graces. On 7th October 1571, crew members on 200 ships prayed the Rosary with Christians in Europe to invoke the Blessed Virgin Mary against Turkish forces. The result was victory through Mary's miraculous intervention. The Memorare echoes this plea: when in danger and trouble - fly for refuge to Mother Mary.



From time to time, Our Blessed Mother has reminded us of the need to pray the ROSARY: in her apparition in Fatima, Mary exhorted the three children to pray the Rosary as a remedy for overcoming Communism and bringing peace. Indeed, the words of St. Lucia of Fatima "there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, in our personal life, of our families....that cannot be solved by the Rosary," are testimony enough. At Lourdes, St. Bernadette saw Mother Mary, she began praying the Rosary. Mary had a Rosary in her hand and joined St. Bernadette in the Glory Be.

The Rosary is the favourite prayer of millions, even non-Christians. St. Bernard honours Mary: "Eve was a thorn, wounding, bringing death to all: in Mary we see a rose, soothing everybody's hurts, giving the destiny's of salvation back to all." Mary, the highly favoured One, takes us through this Garden of Roses (Latin: Rosarium) as we contemplate on the life of Christ. We then open the doors of our hearts to her Divine Son Jesus and discover the treasury of graces we need - answers to our petitions, deliverance from evil and restoration of peace.



Severina Peres enjoys writing articles focussed on Catholic faith and doctrine. She also reaches out to senior citizens.

CALLED TO BE WARRIORS OF JUSTICE

- Fr. M.K. George, SJ

Jesus was clear about His mission. *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed"* (Lk 4:18-19).

He also called His disciples to follow Him radically: *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"* (Mt 16:24).

In a reflection on the meaning of the Cross, Fr. Valiyapadan, OFM, made some striking observations. While many understand the Cross as a symbol of personal struggle to be endured as God's will, the Cross of Jesus carries a far broader significance. For Jesus, the Cross was inseparable from a life of radical justice. He challenged religious rules and laws when they obstructed compassion, healing the sick even on the Sabbath. He fought discrimination in all its forms and confronted the powerful structures of his time, refusing to bow to the imperial authority of the Roman Empire. He disrupted social hierarchies and weakened the grip of the elite while embracing those rejected by society - women, lepers, the poor, tax collectors, and outsiders to the Jewish faith. He rejected notions of communal superiority, challenged corrupt religious practices, and ultimately revealed a radically different understanding of the Divine, calling God His Father and claiming to be His Son. All these actions, grounded in justice, mercy, and truth, led Him to the Cross on Calvary.

As followers of Jesus, are we not called to walk the same path, pursuing justice, peace, and fraternity in our own lives?

Current Realities Call for Radical Following of Jesus

The call to radical discipleship has never been more urgent. Across the world, injustice unfolds before our eyes while many turn away. In Palestine, genocide continues; in the United States, till in recent times considered a paragon of democracy, policies toward migrants have revealed a cruelty unseen in history. Wars persist in Ukraine, Sudan suffers, Manipur cries for justice, Nepal burns - the list of human suffering caused by injustice seems endless.

Are Christians Under a Spell of Fear?

In this context, one wonders whether the Christian world has forgotten its primary calling to be

warriors of justice and retreated into fear and silence. In countries like the United States and India, churches often appear divided or hesitant, unwilling to take a public stand. Exceptions do exist: Pope Francis and Pope Leo continue to speak boldly for justice and peace, offering a moral compass in a world of uncertainty. Yet few Christian leaders step out of their comfort zones to demonstrate solidarity with the oppressed in the streets or in daily life.

Models to Follow

Thankfully, there are a few examples of courage and commitment. In the United States, Bishop Michael Pham of San Diego has actively engaged with immigration issues, even joining other faith leaders at immigration courts to stand with migrants - a deeply courageous act in today's political climate. In India, figures such as Fr. Stan Swamy, Sister Saint Rani Maria, and Sr. Valsa who were martyred for speaking out against injustice and the current Archbishop Machado of Bangalore serve as powerful examples of standing with the oppressed and advocating for justice.

The Call

Every Christian is called to be an advocate for justice. This calling demands that we **educate ourselves about injustice, speak out against oppression, support organizations working for justice, engage politically, and foster inclusivity in our daily lives.** As Pope Francis reminds us, *"Openness to God makes us open towards the marginalized of this world and gives us the courage to leave the confines of our own security and comfort to become bruised."*

To be a true follower of Jesus is to embrace the courage to confront injustice, to walk alongside the suffering, and to live in a way that reflects the radical love and justice of Christ. Our faith is not a passive comfort but an active call to be warriors of justice in a world that desperately needs it.



Fr. M.K. George, formerly Principal of Loyola College of Social Sciences, Trivandrum, is currently General Counsellor to the Superior General of the Society of Jesus in Rome. He can be contacted at gmutholil@gmail.com

PROPHET OF A WEeping HEART: THE LIFE AND MISSION OF JEREMIAH

- Fr. Trevor D'Souza, OFM (Franciscan)

A Voice in Troubled Times

Jeremiah, often known as the "Weeping Prophet," stands out in the Bible as a deeply human figure called by God to speak difficult truths during a dark and chaotic time. His life, filled with suffering, courage, and faithfulness, speaks powerfully to all who are called to witness to God's truth in a world that resists it. For Christians, Jeremiah offers a portrait of prophetic endurance and divine intimacy.

Historical Background: When and Where Did Jeremiah Live?

Jeremiah lived during one of the most turbulent periods in the history of ancient Israel. He was born around 650 BC in **Anathoth**, a small priestly village near **Jerusalem** in the southern kingdom of **Judah**. He prophesied during the reigns of **five kings of Judah**, beginning with **King Josiah (640–609 BC)** and ending after the fall of Jerusalem in **587 BC**. This era was marked by political instability, idolatry, and foreign threats, especially from the rising power of **Babylon**.

Jeremiah's Call: A Reluctant Prophet

Jeremiah's call is beautifully recorded in **Jeremiah 1:4–10**, where God tells him, *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you."* Despite this divine assurance, Jeremiah protests, saying, *"Ah, Lord God! I do not know how to speak. I am too young!"* (Jeremiah 1:6). God assures him not to fear, for He will be with him and put words in his mouth.

This sense of **divine intimacy and human hesitation** is central to Jeremiah's character. He didn't seek greatness but was compelled by God's word, often at great personal cost.

The Situation in Judah: A Nation in Decline

Jeremiah's prophetic career began during the reform movement of King Josiah, who tried to bring Judah back to the worship of Yahweh. However, after Josiah's death, Judah quickly returned to idolatry, injustice, and false security, especially in the belief that the Temple would protect them no matter what (Jeremiah 7:4).

Jeremiah was called to **warn the people** of impending judgement if they did not repent. He prophesied that **Babylon would conquer Jerusalem** - a message that made him extremely unpopular with the religious and political leaders.

Mission and Message: Call to Repentance and Hope

Jeremiah's primary mission was to proclaim **God's judgement** on Judah for its sins - idolatry, corruption, and failure to care for the poor and vulnerable. Yet, he also spoke of **God's deep sorrow** over His people's unfaithfulness. Jeremiah's messages were not just angry condemnations but heartfelt laments, reflecting God's pain.

One of his most important prophecies is the promise of a **New Covenant**:

"I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts" (Jeremiah 31:33).

This vision points forward to the New Covenant established by **Jesus Christ**, making Jeremiah a bridge between the Old and New Testaments.

Suffering and Strength: Jeremiah's Trials

Jeremiah suffered greatly for his message. He was **beaten, imprisoned, threatened with death**, and even thrown into a muddy cistern (Jeremiah 38:6). He is often depicted weeping - not only for his people's sin but also from personal loneliness and grief. He was forbidden to marry (Jeremiah 16:2), a sign of the coming desolation.

His strength lay in his **honest relationship with God**. He often cried out in frustration and anguish, yet he never abandoned his mission. His "confessions" (Jeremiah 11–20) show a man struggling with depression, rejection, and divine silence - but still clinging to faith.

Legacy and Relevance Today

Jeremiah is one of the **most relatable prophets**. His struggles mirror those of anyone who tries to live faithfully in a world that rejects truth. He reminds us that:

- God calls us even in our weakness.
- Faithfulness is not always rewarded with success or comfort.
- Suffering can be part of prophetic witness.
- God never abandons those He calls.

Jeremiah's life and message are foundational to understanding **God's justice, mercy, and covenant love**. His vision of the new covenant is fulfilled in **Jesus Christ**, whose law is written on our hearts through the **Holy Spirit**.

Conclusion: A Prophet for All Seasons

Jeremiah's courage, tears, honesty, and hope make him a powerful figure in the biblical narrative. He shows us that being a prophet is not about power or popularity, but about **faithfulness to God's word**. As adult Catholics navigating a complex world, we

can look to Jeremiah as a companion who teaches us to speak the truth in love, to lament with hope, and to trust in God's plan—even when the world falls apart.

Resources: *Dictionary of the Bible; Reader's Digest, Who's Who in the Bible; Internet sources and AI Tools.*

BIBLE QUIZ ON THE LIFE OF JEREMIAH

- 1. Where was Jeremiah born? (*Jeremiah 1:1*)**
A) Jerusalem
B) Bethel
C) Anathoth
D) Hebron
- 2. What was Jeremiah's father's profession? (*Jeremiah 1:1*)**
A) Prophet
B) King
C) Scribe
D) Priest
- 3. During whose reign did Jeremiah begin prophesying? (*Jeremiah 1:2*)**
A) Jehoiakim
B) Zedekiah
C) Josiah
D) Manasseh
- 4. How did Jeremiah respond to God's call? (*Jeremiah 1:6*)**
A) "Send me!"
B) "I am too young."
C) "I will speak boldly."
D) "I am not worthy."
- 5. What symbolic action did God use to touch Jeremiah? (*Jeremiah 1:9*)**
A) Touched his heart
B) Touched his eyes
C) Touched his lips
D) Gave him a scroll
- 6. What is Jeremiah often called?**
A) Prophet of Fire
B) Weeping Prophet
C) Prophet of Dreams
D) Silent Prophet
- 7. What object did Jeremiah see in his first vision? (*Jeremiah 1:11–12*)**
A) A lion
B) A boiling pot
C) An almond branch
D) A broken cistern
- 8. What did the boiling pot in Jeremiah's vision symbolize? (*Jeremiah 1:13–15*)**
A) Peace
B) Babylonian invasion
C) Temple restoration
D) Rain

9. What did God forbid Jeremiah from doing as a sign to the people? (*Jeremiah 16:2*)

- A) Eating meat
- B) Travelling
- C) Marrying
- D) Speaking in public

10. Who rescued Jeremiah from the cistern? (*Jeremiah 38:7–13*)

- A) King Zedekiah
- B) Baruch
- C) Ebed-melech
- D) Hananiah

11. Who was Jeremiah's scribe and companion? (*Jeremiah 36:4*)

- A) Ezra
- B) Baruch
- C) Nehemiah
- D) Uriah

12. What was Jeremiah's message to Judah about Babylon? (*Jeremiah 25:9–11*)

- A) They would destroy Babylon
- B) Babylon would be their ally
- C) They would be exiled for 70 years
- D) Babylon would protect the Temple

13. What does Jeremiah say about the human heart? (*Jeremiah 17:9*)

- A) "The heart is pure."
- B) "The heart is faithful."
- C) "The heart is deceitful above all things."
- D) "The heart cannot sin."

14. What future hope did Jeremiah proclaim? (*Jeremiah 31:31–33*)

- A) A new king
- B) A New Covenant
- C) A rebuilt Temple
- D) An end to prophecy

15. What did Jeremiah compare God's Word to in his heart? (*Jeremiah 20:9*)

- A) A river of joy
- B) A sword
- C) A fire shut up in his bones
- D) A comforting song

Answer Key

1-C; 2-D; 3-C; 4-B; 5-C; 6-B; 7-C; 8-B; 9-C; 10-C; 11-B; 12-C; 13-C; 14-B; 15-C



Fr. Trevor D'Souza, OFM, is a Franciscan Priest, Retreat Preacher and a Writer. He can be contacted at jc4me2000@gmail.com

POPE LEO XIV CANONIZES FIRST TWO SAINTS OF HIS PONTIFICATE, CARLO ACUTIS AND PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

Pope Leo XIV proclaimed the first two saints of his papacy in a historic ceremony at St. Peter's Square in Rome on 7th September, 2025, including the first of the millennial generation.

Blesseds Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati, two Italian laymen born nearly a century apart, joined the ranks of Mother Teresa and Francis of Assisi as saints of the Roman Catholic Church at the public ceremony, which was attended by thousands of devotees.

Acutis' mother, Antonia Salzano, and his brother and sister were in St. Peter's Square when Leo XIV canonized her son, alongside Frassati.



A portrait of St. Carlo Acutis is displayed on the facade of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City during the canonization mass on 7th September, 2025.



The canonization portrait of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati during the jubilee audience of Pope Leo XIV.

"After due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance and having sought the counsel of many of our brother bishops, we declare and define

blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis to be saints and we enroll them among the saints, decreeing they are to be venerated as such by the whole church," Pope Leo XIV said.

Saint Carlo Acutis, born in England in 1991 but raised in Milan, Italy, used his passion for technology to promote devotion to the Catholic Church, establishing a website documenting Eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions - reported supernatural appearances of Mary, mother of Jesus Christ.

His young age, as well as his proficiency with technology, helped spread the teachings of the church to a new generation.

Dubbed "the first millennial saint" or "the patron saint of the internet," Acutis died of leukemia at the age of 15 in 2006.

Following his death, two miracles have been attributed to him - a prerequisite for canonization - leading to his beatification by the late Pope Francis in October 2020.

Pope Francis was initially set to canonize Acutis himself, but the ceremony was postponed after the pontiff's death in April at the age of 88.

The first miracle was the sudden medically inexplicable recovery of a Brazilian boy with a malformed pancreas who prayed to Acutis for healing in 2013.



Pope Leo XIV presides over Holy Mass and the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on 7th September, 2025.

This was followed up in 2022 when a woman from Costa Rica bounced back from a severe head injury after a bicycle accident in Florence, Italy.

The mother of the woman, who doctors believed might not survive, visited Acutis' tomb in Assisi on the same day she began to breathe on her own, later making a full recovery.

This second miracle attributed to Acutis was officially recognized by the Vatican in May 2024.

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati

Frassati, born in Turin to a prominent Italian family in 1901, was known for his “deep spirituality, love for the poor and enthusiasm for life,” according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

An avid outdoorsman, mountain climber and a member of the Dominican Third Order, Frassati helped polio patients through the St. Vincent de Paul Society before succumbing to the disease himself at age 24 in 1925, which he likely contracted from one of the patients he served.

The miracles attributed to Frassati paving the way for sainthood came 90 years apart.

The first was a 40-year-old labourer who was cured of a disease of the spine called Pott's disease after praying for Frassati's intercession in 1933.

He made a full recovery, living for another 35 years.

The Vatican recognized this occurrence as a miracle in May 1990, and Frassati was beatified - proclaimed blessed - by Pope John Paul II.

The second miracle came in 2017, when an American seminary student, Juan Gutierrez, recovered from a severe Achilles tendon injury suffered during a basketball game after making a novena to Frassati.

As he prayed, Gutierrez said he felt “a sensation of heat” in his ankle, which then healed, enabling him to return to playing the sport he loved.

Pope Francis formally declared his recovery a miracle by decree in November 2024.



Thousands of faithful fill St. Peter's Square for the Holy Mass and canonization of Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati.



Pope Leo XIV celebrates the canonization Mass of the two newest saints in the Catholic Church.

According to the rules of the church, there are three steps on the path to sainthood.

The first is when a deceased person is declared “venerable” - or formally recognized by the Pope as having lived a “heroically virtuous life” or offering their life to the faith, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops writes.

After one miracle occurs as a result of the venerable's intercession, the candidate for sainthood is then beatified, or recognized as a “blessed.”

A second miracle is required following beatification before a candidate is eligible for canonization, at which point they are formally recognized by the church as a saint.

Late Pope Francis canonized 942 saints during his pontificate.

CREATIVITY IS NONE'S MONOPOLY

- Ibonio D'Souza

Every human being is born with the ability to be creative, but to use this faculty it calls for a lot of hard work on his or her part. Creativity is work that goes somewhere, it is a sustained effort towards an ideal.

It may not be given to one to build a dam like Visweswarayya or write verses like Rabindranath Tagore or make a scientific contribution like Ramanujam, but if he would live his life deeply and creatively, he must work and go on working to show his own view of what it means to be alive. The work itself may be modest, but if it calls forth delight, curiosity, inventiveness, he is using the same forces that a genius uses. Creativity is not so much an aptitude as an attitude, and therefore applicable anywhere from making a bowl of soup to building a rocket that can land on the moon. Those people we call talented know this by instinct. The rest of us have to learn it.

Perhaps, most often creativity begins in response to things greater than us. It has to be triggered and stirred into acting by a sight or by a word that we hear or read or sense by touch. Beyond such stirring comes reflection, an awareness taking note of our own thoughts. On the heels of awareness is the impulse to do something with what we feel and know. This is the stage where most of us begin to falter and stall. Making and doing turn to be so difficult that we abandon the attempt.

Just because an idea or plan does not take shape, we conclude that it is no good, that we are not creative any way, when, in fact, it takes an enlightened stubbornness to produce anything. Some people insist that they have no ideas at all, when what they mean is that they do not have big or original ideas. But good ideas stream through our consciousness every day when we meet people, travel, read and

observe others in action. We can have more ideas by being hospitable to those we have; using them, trying them out, and not discarding them before we have given them a chance.

Some people sprout ideas like mushrooms but let the vision drift away because they are impatient with small beginnings. If they cannot start impressively, they choose not to start at all. This is deadly to creativity. Beyond the longing to do or make something to give our feeling form and substance comes the rough work of discipline. It is

more truly in the small, daily moment-by-moment discipline that creativity can be seen than in the crowning triumph.

For creativity to emerge and blossom forth it means choosing from the multitude of possibilities a certain goal and then working patiently toward it, even when we are tired,

puzzled or afraid. It means loving what we do, not just it's high points but it's day-in-day-out effort. It means sticking to one's purpose through a thousand storms and fires, from within as well as from without and experimenting, failing, trying again until both the purpose and one's own self are refined and ready.

The great and transforming truth is that being creative is a discovery of ourselves, of our own way of responding to life.



Ibonio D'Souza is a motivational columnist, author of the book: 'Rise And Shine...the lotus way', and a social activist.

JUST FOR FUN

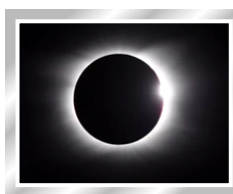
- Christine D'Sylva

We are now in the month of October, a month that bids the end of the rainy season and it means hot summer days.

October also means vacations for many who enjoy a vacation during the Diwali season.

With that happy note, let's begin...

The Black Moon



This year on 23rd August, the Black Moon was seen in the sky.

A Black Moon is a fairly rare occurrence. A Black Moon is an extra full moon in a season.

The Earth's seasons are approximately three months long and they have typically three new moons.

When a season has four new moons, the third new moon is called a Black Moon. These seasonal Black Moons occur about once every 33 months according to the time and date.

A Black Moon occurs during the new moon, the side of the moon facing the earth is entirely shadowed. Its illuminated half faces the sun making it invisible in the sky and undetectable at night. Unlike a full moon or a lunar eclipse it does not produce a visual spectacle, leaving the night darker than usual. This has some significance for with no moonlight, skies are darker, allowing a better view of stars, planets and galaxies.

The next Black Moon will occur on 31st August, 2027.

The Black Moon remains a powerful reminder of the rhythms and mysteries of our universe.

Inspirational Story



In a school there was a boy named Harry. He liked to laugh at others. One day he pointed to a girl, Lily's shoes and remarked, "Your shoes are funny."

Lily was poor and could not afford new and fancy shoes. Lily hid her feet feeling sad.

The teacher saw this. She told the class, "Today I will play a game. Each of you will get a paper heart. If anyone upsets you by insulting you, crumple the heart." Harry deliberately crumpled Lily's paper heart. Lily felt tearful.

The teacher said, "Now try to fix it."

Harry tried his best to straighten the heart but it stayed wrinkled.

The teacher said, "Words can hurt and we cannot fix them easily. So be careful what you say to others. It is better to build others up rather than tear them down."

Harry felt a bit ashamed. He realised his error. The next day he brought snacks and shared them with Lily. They formed a friendship

The class learnt being kind is better than being mean.

What do we learn?

We have encountered mean people in our lives and their words and actions often leave a lasting deep imprint on us. They prefer to tear down others rather than make someone smile.

Kind words cost nothing. The more positive vibes we give out to others, the more positive vibes will boomerang on to us. It is the law of the Universe.

Quiz

All about Singapore



1. Which are the four official languages in Singapore?
2. Which is the national mascot?
3. Name a futuristic garden in Singapore with biodiversity and iconic Super trees?
4. What is in micro text on the back of a Singaporean 1000 note?
5. What is the capital of Singapore?

Food facts to blow your mind



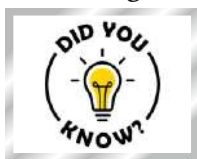
1. Cranberries are commonly referred to as bounce berries because bouncing cranberries is a common ripeness test for farmers, they bounce when they are ripe.
2. A typical ear of corn has an even number of rows. Ears of corn generally have an even number of rows, usually 16.
3. White chocolate is not actually chocolate but made up of sugar, milk products, vanilla, lecithin and cocoa butter, it has no chocolate solids.
4. Scientists can turn peanut butter into diamonds because it is very rich in carbon. They can extract the oxygen from the carbon dioxide found in peanut butter and then enact immense pressure on the carbon left behind.

Riddle Me



1. I have a face and hands but I cannot see or clap. What am I?
2. Nobody empties me but I stay full for long. What am I?
3. What has many rings but no fingers?
4. The person who makes it has no need for it, the person who buys it also has no need for it but the person who uses it does not feel or see it. What is it?
5. If your aunt's brother is not your uncle, then what relation is he to you?

Interesting Fact



Consumption of tomato juice is very popular on commercial airline flights. German airlines Lufthansa estimates they serve about 53,000 gallons of the stuff per year.

There is a scientific reason for tomato juice's popularity.

The modern airplane's cabin's combination of low pressure, loud engine noise and desert like humidity dulls the human's sensitivity to sweet and salty flavours by about 30 percent. It does not impact the umami flavours important to the taste of tomato juice.

Therefore tomato juice tastes better on airplanes than in normal conditions.

Smile Please



1. What did twenty do when hungry?
Ans: Twenty-eight.
2. What did the beach say when the tide came in?
Ans: Long time, no sea.
3. A boy went missing. His family circulated his pictures on WhatsApp. He was found. The picture is still circulating. Today, people still drop him back home every time he goes out.
4. An employee, forever late, found a good solution to manage his boss's anger.
Boss: You are late again.
Employee: No sir, I have come early for tomorrow's work.
5. I used to hate facial hair... but it grew on me.

What's the Good Word?

All about Horses



1. The field of vision of horses.
2. The family horses belong to.
3. Are horses mammals?
4. The diet of horses.
5. A baby horse.

Naturopathy

The science of healing by nature.

1. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water. This prevents the spread of infections. Keeping a hand-wash in your bathroom serves as a good reminder to do this more frequently.
2. Grind masoor dal into a fine powder. Mix it with milk and besan and use as an effective face pack to reduce tan.
3. Avoid commercial fruit juices. They are loaded with added sugar. If you love fruit juice, juice your own fruits, although eating a fruit by itself has more benefits because of the fibre. So limit intake of fruit juices, since the pulp and skin of fruits is more nutritious than the juice alone.

Brain Teasers



1. It is always on the dinner table but never eaten.
2. You will find me in Mercury, Mars, Jupiter but not in Venus. What am I?
3. What kind of dog has no tail?
4. What kind of cup is tasty and it cannot hold water?
5. If $X=24$, $Y=12$ and Z when divided by the sum of both gives you 4, what is the value of Z ?

Inspirational Quotes

Shah Rukh Khan



1. Success is not a good teacher. Failure makes you humble.
2. Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn.
3. Don't become a philosopher before you become rich.
4. Don't let the past blackmail your present to ruin a beautiful future.
5. If you are a real star, you don't need to prove it in any other way than just being kind.
6. You can't make yourself by breaking others.
7. Money is a good thing to run after. It is very important to be financially stable but you have to keep your wrongs and rights in mind. Don't shy away from earning but without selling your soul.

World News



1. Thousands of Australians are marching the streets for anti-immigration rallies across the country. March for Australia rallies took place in Sydney, Melbourne and other major cities.
- Australia has faced a recent rise in right-wing extremism and made the Nazi salute punishable by a mandatory prison term this year.

2. Thousands of people have held protests across Mexico to highlight the country's many enforced disappearances and demand more action by officials to tackle them.

3. Charlie Kirk, an American, popular for his open debates had been assassinated on 10th September this year. He was renowned for his patriotism and his Christian teachings. Although a Protestant, he emphasised the role of Mother Mary and felt more young women should emulate her piety and goodness. He spoke strongly against abortion. President Trump had many nice words to say about him, also stating his legacy would live on.

Wisdom Message of the Month



The recent reports of stray dogs not to be segregated from human society have made animal lovers happy. This outcry had become world news with even foreigners commenting on the injustice of segregating street dogs. Many animal lovers explained how animals especially dogs and cats which are domesticated animals have a right to exist in society and not treated like criminals.

People pointed out that there are so many rapists, murderers who get away even scot free or with minimum sentence. Does this mean that because of them, the entire human population should be segregated to avoid such crimes? True, dogs can cause bites and rabies but this problem should be tackled by the government in a humane way. Just because one dog bites a person does not mean all dogs are to be put in the same category.

It is said dogs have a very good gut instinct. If they do not like the smell of a person, they may bite. The truth is if humans could have a keener smell of people, then maybe many crimes might be avoided. So many criminals are charming and pleasant looking, hiding an evil soul. I am not saying dogs only bite bad people but often this is the case. They sense something that upsets them and we might not understand what. Their gut instinct is very strong. Yet of course innocent people get bitten, especially if the dog is a guard dog and protecting the home or their territory. Dogs are very territorial animals. They sense anxiety and even antipathy and can react adversely.

Animals are also part of our society. God did not mean the world to be dominated only by humans, In fact, man was made last, the crown of God's creation yes but not his first choice one has to admit if one reads the Bible.

So while animals are voiceless and cannot hold protests and marches, they have an ally in thousands of kind people who feed them and take care of them. I have seen really poor people living

on the streets giving their last morsel of food to a dog but wealthy people in their fancy cars making faces of either indifference or disgust. These poor people have a lack of selfishness that is praiseworthy.

Vaccinations that are required should be provided to these animals to ensure not their own health but the safety of the humans around them in case of bites. There are a few altruistic vets who take care of any strays brought to them either free or for minimum fees. This practice should be encouraged.

What do we learn?

Caring for God's creatures is not just about money but really having a big generous and unselfish heart. It reminds us of the popular hymn - Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.

The animals cannot reward us like humans may but their affection and happiness they show to us ought to be reward enough for us. I believe our Heavenly Father above smiles every time the needy of society, whether a human or animal is shown kindness and care.

Answers

Quiz

1. English, Malay, Mandarin and Tamil. 2. The Merlion, a mythical creature half lion and half fish. 3. Gardens on the Bay. 4. Their national anthem. 5. The city is a country by itself and the capital is the country itself.

Riddle Me

1. A clock. 2. Moon. 3. A telephone. 4. A coffin. 5. Your father.

What's the Good Word?

1. Nearly 360 degree field of vision. 2. Taxonomic family- Equidae. 3. Yes. 4. Plant based diet (herbivores) 5. Foal.

Brain Teasers

1. Cutlery. 2. The letter R. 3. A hot dog. 4. A cupcake. 5. Z=9



Christine is an author of over 30 books available on Amazon worldwide in paperback and Kindle. She also enjoys playing the piano and has a YouTube cooking channel Christine D'Sylva's fusion kitchen.



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

THANKSGIVING FOR HEALING MY SON

MUMBAI: Ven. Fr. Agnel interceded for my son who was slow in grasping. He joined LKG in June 2025 and was finding it difficult to be on par with other students. He was frequenting the washroom, as he was tensed. I prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnel and he relieved my son, Indraneel, from these problems. Now he has taken interest in learning and to my surprise, he has become a quick learner. Moreover, he is not frequently using the washroom as before. His tension is gone and he has calmed down. Thank you Ven. Fr. Agnel for your timely intervention.

- Lakshmi Chandran

THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

SION: Through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my prayers have been answered. I am a strong devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel and believe in his miraculous powers.

-Petal D'Souza

THANKSGIVING TO VEN. FR. AGNEL

KHAR: I thank Ven. Fr. Agnel for his intercession and all the blessings bestowed on me and my family. I feel his power working on me, whenever I visit Fr. Agnel Ashram in Bandra.

- Rhea D'Costa

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED

VIRAR: I see devotees flocking to Fr. Agnel Ashram, especially on Sundays and making offerings. My prayers have always been answered, through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel.

- Sangita Rodrigues

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED

BANDRA: Through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, we have been blessed in many ways. We make it a point to visit Fr. Agnel Ashram in Bandra Bandstand whenever possible.

- Berlyn Fernandes

THANKSGIVING TO VEN. FR. AGNEL

VASAI: I have immense faith in Ven. Fr. Agnel and his powerful intercessions. I am grateful to the Venerable for favours received.

- Moses Julie Koli

THANKSGIVING FOR GOOD HEALTH

DADAR (W), MUMBAI: I am thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for keeping me and my family in good health.

- Rodney & Family

THANKSGIVING FOR GIFT OF A CHILD

SAKINAKA, MUMBAI: Ven. Fr. Agnel has blessed my daughter with the gift of a child. She always longed to be a mother and her wish is fulfilled.

- Paho Rudra

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED

GUJARAT: We have been blessed immensely by Ven. Fr. Agnel. I am indeed grateful for all the blessings received.

- Chandrikaben & Family

THANKSGIVING TO VEN. FR. AGNEL

UAE: Through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my family has been blessed in many ways. I make it a point to visit Fr. Agnel Ashram in Bandra, Mumbai, to receive blessings.

- Sabrina & Longinus

THANKSGIVING FOR HELP

WHEN NEEDED MOST

ARNALA: I thank Ven. Fr. Agnel for his kind intercession in helping me during difficult times.

-Patrick Khavari

THANKSGIVING FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED

UAE: We are indeed grateful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for blessing us always. I like to visit Fr. Agnel Ashram, whenever I am down in Mumbai.

- Richard Mathias & Family

THANKSGIVING TO VEN. FR. AGNEL

FOR GOOD PROPOSAL

ASSAGAO, GOA: I am happy to have found a good life partner, through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel.

-Richard Castelino

OUT OF THEIR BOUNTY

Carol Mathias	Mangalore	100000	M.D. Mathai	Kerala	2000	Pareesh M. Thakkar	Mumbai	1000
Yul Remedios	Dubai	47000	Janet E. Coutinho	Palghar	2000	Preet P. Thakkar	Mumbai	1000
Praveen M. Srivastava	Mumbai	46000	Kyle Colaco	Palghar	2000	Yaksh S. Thakkar	Mumbai	1000
Sosamma Saje	Kerala	40000	A. R. Elavia	Mumbai	2000	Kiran Kumar	Gujarat	1000
Ivy T. Rodrigues	Palghar	33888	Agnel J. Pinto	Mumbai	2000	Melvin D'Souza	Thane	1000
Kayomarz H. Mistry	Mumbai	30000	Anthony Lobo	Mumbai	2000	Prachi Bronal Barboj	Palghar	1000
Arun Augustine	Kerala	21500	Leon Gonsalves	Palghar	2000	Gev K. Kelawalla	Mumbai	1000
Millie Fernandes	Mumbai	15000	Armaity Kelawalla	Mumbai	2000	Martina V. Pawar	Gujarat	1000
Fatima Rodricks	Lalbaug	15000	Ashley S. C. Dias	Mumbai	2000	Irene Heppollette	Palghar	1000
Meena J. Porathur	Kerala	15000	Joseph Sequeria	Mumbai	2000	Naina Ashok Desai	Mumbai	1000
Shirly Pereira	Virar (W)	15000	Attely Kuttikadan	Thane	2000	Vilia Allen	Kolkata	1000
Piedade R. D'Souza	Mumbai	12000	Sofia Francis	Thane	2000	S. Jestine Sales	Tamil Nadu	1000
Vimla I. Rebello	Mumbai	10000	Heather Hyrapiet	Kolkata	2000	Vasudev B. Tayaole	Maharashtra	1000
Margaret Cardoz	Mumbai	10000	Solly Thomas	Kerala	2000	Ritesh Rajan	Mumbai	1000
Mochamary Sundar	Wadala	10000	Agnes Sequeira	Mumbai	2000	M. R. Stany Lopes	Palghar	1000
Rita Lobo/Ninette D'Souza	Mumbai	10000	Hiren Gala	Mumbai	1900	A. F. Joseph	Kerala	1000
Melini Joseph D'Souza	Mumbai	10000	Nikhil Atram	Mumbai	1500	Swapnali Ivan D'Souza	Palghar	1000
Wilfred Anthony	Mumbai	8000	Arun Jadhav	Kolhapur	1500	Luiza A. Rodrigues	Palghar	1000
Warren Fernandes	Mumbai	6000	Pinky Balsara	Mumbai	1500	Benedict A. D'Cruz	Kerala	1000
Roy Diago Muniz	Mumbai	6000	Dilnaz Khatao	Mumbai	1500	B. Maria Susainathan	Tamil Nadu	600
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	5250	Alok Rakshit	Mumbai	1500	Canute D'Souza	Tamil Nadu	600
Arun Bhandari	Mumbai	5000	Gavin P. Fonseca	Mumbai	1500	Mitesh Bhatiya	Gujarat	505
Paul Mathai	Bangalore	5000	Fransquinha Fernandes	Mumbai	1250	Binal Jay Desai	Mumbai	501
Philomena Pinto	Chikmagalur	5000	Rabia J. Khan	Mumbai	1250	Kanhaiyalal Gupta	Mumbai	501
Piedade R. D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	Alice D'Souza	Mumbai	1250	Mathew Kurian	Bangalore	501
Santosh Fernandes	Palghar	5000	Suzanne D'Souza	Mumbai	1250	Mahrukh Mistry	Nashik	501
Agnel Xavier	Tamil Nadu	5000	Sharon D'Souza	Mumbai	1250	Nirav S. Ghelani	Mumbai	501
Wilma Vaz	Mumbai	5000	Monica D'Souza	Pune	1200	Jensa Agnel	Mumbai	500
Shubhangi Kedari	Pune	5000	Rita Johnson	Kerala	1200	Rani Sebastian	Kerala	500
Dr. Niket Shastri	Gujarat	5000	Ashish Lal	Navi Mumbai	1100	R.S. Raju	Chennai	500
Mamta Rodrigues	Palghar	5000	Abhishek Lal	Navi Mumbai	1100	Francis/Vijayanti	Palghar	500
Michael Noronha	Navi Mumbai	5000	Marian D'Souza	Mumbai	1005	Sherol Vaz	Palghar	500
Kevin Martis	Mumbai	5000	Elizabeth Pious	Kerala	1000	Sophia D'Souza	Thane	500
Vinod John	Mumbai	5000	Rockhenry A. Chettiar	Mumbai	1000	Livita D'Souza	Palghar	500
Sudhir R. Tejpal	Mumbai	5000	Jefferson A. Saldanha	Mumbai	1000	Nimisha D'Souza	Mumbai	500
Odnill Furtado	Mumbai	5000	Varsha R. Shukla	Mumbai	1000	Aloysius Dias	Mumbai	500
Pelegrina M. Braganza	Mumbai	5000	Kahaan Shah	Mumbai	1000	Jason & Joyson Cardoza	Mumbai	500
Viveka J. Dias	Palghar	5000	Mary Antony	Kerala	1000	Pravin Tribhuvan	Pune	500
Techno Products	Chennai	3000	Flemy Thekketh	Kerala	1000	Clara Fernandes	Mumbai	500
Menino Fernandes	Goa	3000	A. Santhappan	Tamil Nadu	1000	Samuel Anthony	Mumbai	500
Franklin J. Nadar	Mumbai	3000	Aquielia Jude	Mumbai	1000	Raymond Lobo	Mumbai	500
Charles Veigas	Mumbai	3000	Hillary Gonsalves	Palghar	1000	Ashok Lal	Navi Mumbai	500
Saudamini Norbert Dias	Palghar	3000	Aruna Fernando	Tamil Nadu	1000	Jimmy Umrigar	Mumbai	500
Rodney Valentine	Mumbai	2500	Maharukh Chesson	Mumbai	1000	Laxmi Mistry	Palghar	500
M. James	Kerala	2155	John M Gonsalves	Mumbai	1000	Arundhati V. Shirsat	Akola	500
Jaison Chackochen	Kerala	2000	Flossy Suares	Thane	1000	Dores Gopal	Navi Mumbai	500
Isabel Hendricks	Tamil Nadu	2000	Freejo Vincent M.	Kerala	1000	Abey E. Thomas	Kerala	500
Rija Anna Francis	Kerala	2000	William & Brenda	Mumbai	1000	Melvin Joseph	Mysore	500
Nelcy Pereira	Mumbai	2000	Aryan Arun Saxena	Jaipur	1000	Leference Ubadesi	Vasai	500
Lorna Mira Lobo	Mumbai	2000	Swithan D'Souza	Palghar	1000	Dr. Sujata B. Sawant	Pune	500

BOB'S BANTER

by Robert Clements

Three Young Men..!

This morning, as I sipped my coffee and scanned the news, I nearly spilled my hot brew. There on the world stage, strutting about and shaping the destiny of millions, are three young men: Donald Trump at seventy-nine, Narendra Modi at seventy-five, and Vladimir Putin at seventy-two. I say young men because that's exactly what they are made out to be by their nations.

Strong, decisive, powerful!

Not doddering, not dithering, not even deserving of pity because of any wrinkles or walking sticks.

And then I thought of us. Poor us! We cling to the belief that at sixty you're finished, at sixty-one you're obsolete, and at sixty-two you're a walking liability.

So, we retire people off! At exactly the age when the brain has gathered wisdom, the heart has softened with experience, and the hands have steadied after

Well, my friends, look again! The world is being shaped by chronologically old, biologically young men. That's the lesson. Age is in the head. You can choose to count your wrinkles or you can count your years of hard-won experience and keep going.

Now I'm not saying an eighty-year-old needs to wrestle in the Olympics or run the hundred-meter dash. But I am saying that maybe it's time you stopped treating sixty-seventy-eighty like exit gates.

Treat it instead as the restart button.

If three heads of state can decide on war and peace, on oil and sanctions, on democracy and dictatorship - at an age when most of us are put out to pasture - then surely your father can keep running his business, your mother can still lead her NGO, and your grandmother can keep learning the piano.



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decades of practice, we push them into irrelevance.

Tell me, why should a surgeon with steady fingers, a teacher who knows his Shakespeare better at seventy than he did at forty, or an efficient manager be sent home with a pension slip and a farewell garland? Just because the calendar says so? Meanwhile, Trump, Modi, and Putin are busily signing treaties, wagging nuclear fingers, and deciding the fate of generations.

It's not just about them. The bigger tragedy is that most over sixty, start believing they are old. They stop learning, stop working, stop reinventing. "I'm retired," they say, as if it's a disease. They shuffle off to bed early, fold their newspapers with finality, and look suspiciously at anyone who still thinks of them as useful.

So next time your seventy-year-old dad says, "I think I'm too old for this," hand him the morning paper with a picture of these three young men. And say, "Dad, if Trump, Modi, and Putin are still young enough to shake the world, you're certainly young enough to do the same!"

Then put on your TV and watch, or let them watch these three young men hogging the limelight...!

Robert Clements is a newspaper columnist, whose column has graced over 80 newspapers and on certain days has a readership of over 6 million. He can be contacted at bobsbanter@gmail.com

***Installation Ceremony of the
new Regional Superior of the Agnel Region
and his Council at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra,
on 29th September, 2025***



The new Regional Superior of the Agnel Region, Rev. Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho (left) with the outgoing Regional Superior, Rev. Fr. Bento Rodrigues (right).



The Regional Superior, Rev. Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho (centre), with Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza (1st Councillor - right) and Rev. Fr. Agnelo Gomes (2nd Councillor - left).



Rev. Fr. Nazareth Fernandes, the Superior General of the Society of Pilar (centre), with the Regional Superior, his new Regional Council, SFX Fathers and Brother.

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Feast of Our Lady of Pilar (12th October 2025)



**Patroness of The Society of the Missionaries of
St. Francis Xavier (SFX).
Our Lady, Pray for Us, Always!**



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