

FR. AGNEL

ASHRAM NEWS

February 2026



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF



LENT

40 days of renewal!

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HAPPY EASTER



FR. AGNEL ASHRAM

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EASTER APPEAL 2026

Dear Friends and Well-Wishers,

We, the Fr. Agnel Ashram Community, together with the children of our Balbhavan, wish you all a Happy Easter. May the spirit of Easter fill your heart with happiness, hope and renewal.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the victory of life over death, reiterating the promise of eternal life. May this season bring you new beginnings and is as cheerful and colourful as a basket full of Easter eggs!

You can share in the joys of Easter with the Balbhavan children either with a contribution or in kind. Let's together make it an Easter to remember!

May God's abundant blessings be upon you and your family.

With the deepest gratitude,

Yours Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Valerian D'Souza, sfx

(Superior)

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MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL SUPERIOR



We begin February with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the 30th World Day for Consecrated Life on the 2nd. We pray that Almighty God strengthens priests, nuns and the religious and guides them in their works and spiritual journey.

February is the month of the celebration of love. World Marriage Day is on 8th February and Valentine's Day is on 14th February. It takes three to make a marriage work where a successful marriage includes the husband, wife, and God. Divine guidance provides the necessary strength, love, and stability that a couple cannot sustain alone.

Forty days of Lent begins from Ash Wednesday on 18th February. It is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As Pope Benedict XVI said, "Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One." We wish you and your family a grace-filled Lenten season, full of renewed spiritual energy.

Health is Wealth. We may have lost some of our loved ones due to cancer. This World Cancer Day on 4th February, let us spread awareness about cancer prevention, early detection and treatment, as part of global efforts to reduce cancer related deaths.

We may have come across people having epileptic fits. This International Epilepsy Day on 8th February, let us be resolve to be more loving and caring about those managing seizures.

Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme "*The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing another's pain*" for the 34th World Day of the Sick on 11th February, 2026. Established by St. John Paul II in 1992, the World Day of the Sick, calls us to recognise the face of Christ in our sick and suffering brothers and sisters.

As students prepare for their final examinations, we pray for their success. May the Holy Spirit guide them in securing excellent results and steer them on the right career path.

- Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho
Regional Superior

The Passion of the Crucified God

Guest Editorial

- Fr. Eusebio Gomes, SFX

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. On that day, we receive ashes on our foreheads symbolising our mortality of life in this world. The words of the priest while applying ash on our forehead: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Gen.3:19), indicates that we are originated from dust and after our death, our bodies shall be consumed by the dust.

This should not sadden us but make us to realise that the life in this world is finite and we are on a journey to eternity, to a place where we shall live infinitely.

The period of Lent leads us to reflect on the Paschal Mystery: Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ. It is a time to ponder upon our unworthiness, emptiness, brokenness; a time to allow Almighty God to enter our hearts and to deepen our relationship with Him and cement our interconnection with other human beings.

The Trial of Jesus

Jesus was sentenced to death and died on a cross, a punishment for slaves and subversives. Why was he crucified on a wooden cross between two criminals? Why did the Jewish leaders want to kill him? The account in the Gospels of the political trial, and of the religious trial, is very much controversial. Jesus was sentenced to death in a name of a god.

The Religious Trial

Jesus was arrested and taken to Caiaphas, the high priest that year. The interrogation before Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas could have been a private interrogation (Jn.18:12-23), and the interrogation before the Sanhedrin would have taken place the following morning with the intention of preparing the charges to be laid before Pilate, who had the power of execution (Mk.14:53-64). The Jewish high priest had no power to sentence Jesus to death, since the Jews were ruled by the Roman Empire.

The Jesuit theologian Fr. Jon Sobrino in his book, *'Jesus the Liberator,'* says: "It is clear historically

that Jesus came into conflict with the religious leaders, and it is clear theologically that he was condemned in the name of a divinity."

John the evangelist describes a bitter religious conflict between Jesus and the Jewish leaders in the Temple, at the feast of the Dedication (Jn.10:22-39). In the Synoptic Gospels this appears during the last week in Jerusalem.

The Belgian theologian Fr. Edward Schillebeeckx thinks that the people who made up the Sanhedrin were against Jesus for various reasons, but were

also respecters of the Law, and would not have condemned him without a legal basis. The crucial issue is why they were all against Jesus.

According to French theologian Fr. Marie-Emile Boismard, the reason appears in the charge brought against him that he wanted to destroy the Temple (Mt. 26:61).

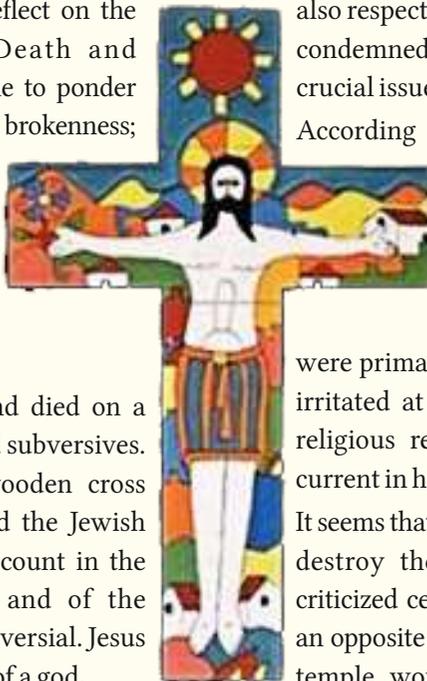
The authors of the death of Jesus were primarily the members of priestly caste, irritated at seeing Jesus set himself up as a religious reformer of the cultural practices current in his time.

It seems that Jesus was convicted for wanting to destroy the Temple, because he not only criticized certain aspects of it, but also offered an opposite alternative, which implied that the temple would no longer be the core of a political, social, and economic theocracy in

Israel's life. In fact the religious leaders misunderstood the statement of Jesus. He was talking with reference to his death and resurrection i.e. referring metaphorically to his own body rather than the physical temple in Jerusalem. The statement was a prophecy of his crucifixion (destruction) and resurrection (rebuilding).

The Political Trial

According to Dominican theologians Fr. Marie-Emile Boismard and Fr. Pierre Benoit, in the Gospels, especially Luke, there is a tendency to attribute ultimate responsibility for Jesus' death to



the Jewish leaders, not to Pilate. Jesus died crucified as a political offender and died the type of death that only the political power, the Romans could inflict. The reason for the conviction was formulated in political terms: he claimed to be the king of the Jews.

In the political trial that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, which the religious leaders found blasphemous and brought the case against him, would have been not appropriate for his conviction. Here in the political trial the religious case had no weight. There was a need of a legal basis for anyone to be sentenced to death. Now claiming to be the king of Jews is in confrontation with the Roman Emperor as Israelites were under his domain. The Jews found an easy way to file a case against Jesus about his kingship which would bring him in conflict with the Roman Emperor and that would lead to his fate. This was a false accusation to trap Jesus.

Jesus made it clear: “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews” (Jn.18:36).

Luke writes that the Assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and the scribes brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him saying: “We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king” (Lk.23:2). The Jewish leaders brought the charge of insurrection against Jesus in order to implicate him in this. The passage about paying taxes to the emperor is presented as having been a political trap for Jesus. Luke writes: “So they watched him and sent spies who pretended to be honest, in order to trap him by what he said, so as to hand him over to the jurisdiction and authority of the governor” (Lk. 20:20).

Jesus replied in the famous words: “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's” (Lk. 20: 25). In John, Jesus' answer to the charge that he is claiming himself a king is that he is a king and has a kingdom. As a king his mission was to establish the kingdom of his

Father, not a kingdom of this world. The kingdom of God is comprised of eternal love, everlasting joy and immense peace. Jesus died for us, for our salvation so that we inherit this kingdom of God.

The Crucified God

Our God is a crucified God. He died crucified as a ransom for our sins. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said: “Only a suffering God can save us.” Regarding the suffering God and the suffering humanity, Jon Sobrino narrates his personal experience: “On 16 November 1989, when the Jesuits of the Central American University in San Salvador were murdered outside their house, the body of Fr. Juan Ramon Moreno was dragged inside the residence into one of the rooms, mine. In the movement one book from the bookcase in the room fell on to the floor and became soaked in Fr Juan Ramon's blood. That book was *The Crucified God* by the German theologian Jürgen Moltmann. It is a symbol, of course, but it expresses God's real participation in the passion of the world.”

Today, we see the innocent people being crucified on the cross like Jesus, the crucified God: the beggars who are rejected, the lepers who are despised, the orphans who are parentless, the widows who are helpless, the minorities in our country, significantly the Christians who are persecuted and the poor people who are oppressed by the mighty and the powerful people.

We are called by God to bring them down from the cross. Let the season of Lent be an occasion for us to reflect on the passion of the crucified God and the passion of the crucified people.



Fr. Eusebio Gomes is an Assistant Parish Priest of Holy Rosary Church, Bathinda, Punjab. He is also the Provincial Councillor of Delhi Province. He writes for various publications, including Konkani journals. His contact: gomesgoa27@gmail.com

A WHOLE SEASON OF LENT?

-Fr Fio Mascarenhas, SJ

Have you ever stopped to wonder about “*what distinguishes Christians from other people?*” Here is a bold answer of St. Pope John Paul II:

“Christians know by faith, truths and realities that other peoples neither know, nor can ever know, about the meaning of existence and human history.”

Talking with an international group of theologians, he continued: **“What gives Christians their identity and makes them different from other people is their remembrance and expectation of Jesus Christ. The memories and hopes of the pilgrim people of God in time and space give them their own unique identity and special character, protecting them always and everywhere from the dangers of dissolution and loss of identity.**

Through its shared memory and expectation of Jesus Christ, Christians know by faith, truths and realities that other peoples neither know, nor can ever know, about the meaning of existence and human history” (Pontifical International Theologians Commission, 1990, to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Vatican II).

What a deep insight this is! It expresses well our uniqueness as the new People of God, and the absolute necessity of fostering the “memories and hopes” of the Christian people, all of which are contained in the word of God and in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. And this, precisely, is the goal of the long Season of Lent: **to strengthen our self-identity as Christians** by getting in touch again with the main “**memories and hopes**” of our faith. We do not need to learn something new every year in Lent, but we need to go deeper into old truths, covering the same ground as at every Holy Week, looking again at rich biblical texts, and celebrating the liturgies of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The main actor in Lent is therefore YOU, dear Reader, and not some famous charismatic preacher invited to preach a Lenten Mission. EACH Catholic

is responsible for the spiritual success of this Season, for it is a time for intense personal **spiritual exercise** on the part of each person. So use your New Testament a lot, setting aside prime time to rediscover its riches, and to be surprised by the insights contained in texts you are not yet familiar with. And keep asking the Lord, “Jesus, I want to become more like you, to *think* like you, to witness to your *values*, to *behave* like you in daily life!”

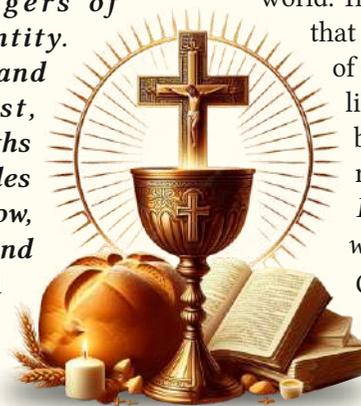
Rom.12:2 contains a powerful tip to help us in becoming like Jesus: **“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,”** that is, by learning to **think** in a new way, in a way that is different from that of the world. That is why Lent is a *biblical* Season, so

that increasing familiarity with the word of God will help us to think in a Christ-like way, and so be transformed in our behaviour. Remember why Jesus rebuked Peter: **“Get behind me Satan! Because the way you think is man’s way, not God’s way!”** (Matt 16:23).

On the other hand, Jesus also exclaimed, **“I thank you Father, that you have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent of this world, but revealed them to mere babes!”**

So much depends on the way we think! The world is continually pressurizing us (in obvious or subtle ways through the mass media and through peer-group pressure) to accept new philosophies, worldly customs and thought-patterns, modern values of consumerism, hedonism, secularization... And the only way we can fight victoriously against this barrage of temptation is by creating and entering a **counter-environment of faith**, by strengthening our self-identity as Christians, by fostering our Christian memories and hopes, through devotion to the word of God and the sacraments.

So, in Lent, let the word of God become “*spirit and life*” (Jn.6:63) for you personally. As Vatican II teaches: **“Such is the force and power of the word of God that it can serve the children of the Church as strength for their faith, food for the**



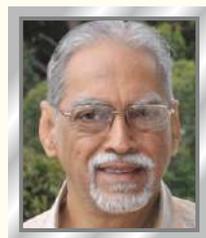
soul, and a pure and lasting fount of spiritual life... *Just as from constant attendance at the eucharistic mystery the life of the Church draws increase, so a new impulse of spiritual life may be expected from increased devotion to the word of God*" (*Dei Verbum*, nn.21, 26).

God's word has an in-built power; it is a dynamic, creative reality. It not only teaches but also effects what it proclaims (Heb.4:12). This ability of God's word to enter deep into our conscious and subconscious minds makes it an efficient *agent* of Christian character-formation. It fosters "*the memories and hopes of the pilgrim people of God in time and space*" thus giving them "*their own unique identity and special character, protecting them always and everywhere from the dangers of dissolution and loss of identity.*" May we personally discover this power in new and deeper ways during these days of Lent!

The whole "season" of Lent (from 18th February 2026) is also an opportunity for making our prayer

more personal, not multiplying novenas, stations of the cross, and recitation of devotions without application of mind (hurrying through hundreds of formal prayers composed by various saints) but letting Jesus say about YOU: "*I thank you Father, that you have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent of this world, but revealed them to mere babes!*" Prayer is not always "asking," it is also "resting" in the love of the Father and of Jesus, by the power of their Holy Spirit.

Lent 2026 can **strengthen our self-identity as Christians** if we get in touch again with the main "**memories and hopes**" of our faith!



Dr. Fr. Fiorello Mascarenhas, SJ participated as a "peritus" (expert) in the 2008 Synod of Bishops in Rome, and has authored 30 books on Catholic biblical spirituality. His contact: frfiomas@gmail.com



There is no Joy Greater than the Joy of GIVING

Norma Kamath, Bengaluru

I celebrated my 85th birthday on 28th December 2025, and requested my friends invited, not to bring me a birthday gift, but if they wished, they could contribute towards the Balbhavan children.

At the entrance of my home, I placed two magazines of Fr. Agnel Ashram News for their perusal, with a donation box. The amount received was Rs.20,000, which I sent through a cheque.

Veronica and Michelle Theresa Lewis, Kolkata

As mother and daughter, we are sending you an amount of Rs.15000 each via UPI for the sponsorship of one child each under your care.

Aban Vandrevala, Mumbai

Please accept a humble donation of Rs.4000 via NEFT for fulfilling the needs of the Balbhavan boys.

Sojan Varghese, Navi Mumbai

I have sent an amount of Rs.2500 via NEFT as a donation for the Balbhavan children under your care.

Melini Joseph D'Souza, Dadar, Mumbai

It is with great joy that I send Rs.10,000 towards the educational expenses of the Balbhavan children. Please pray for my family.

Vipul Girdharlal Papat, Kochi

I am making a love offering of Rs. 5000 via EDC for the Balbhavan children. We have received a lot of blessings through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. I am 100% sure that the Venerable is always praying for us.

Souvik Majumdar, Vasai

I have made a payment of Rs.5000 via NEFT as my monthly contribution for the month of February 2026.

Patricia Sequeira, Mumbai

As part of sharing with the needy, I am donating an amount of Rs. 2000 for the Balbhavan boys.

Norma Ferreira, Mumbai

We are making a donation of Rs.15000 towards the education and sponsorship of one of the Balbhavan boys. Thank you for praying for us.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

-Ninette D'Souza

In **Baruch (1: 5-6)**, we read how during their Babylonian exile, the Jewish people expressed repentance. These words summarize the common penitential disciplines of God's people, since ancient times.

Lent is a season of reboot, of reset. Like our gadgets, our lives too, get overloaded, thus necessitating deleting stuff that prevents God's love from entering into us. We are sinners needing repentance, we're not unforgiveable. Going to Confession before Ash Wednesday, is ideal preparation for Lent, because it is not about stating our sins, it is about giving God the time to touch our restless hearts, through His **A n o i n t e d O n e**. At Confession we receive guidance. So, sharing and discussing your problems in depth, with your Confessor, is imperative. Make an appointment and go prepared, if you want to be healed.

Lent is a **DESERT** experience, not a picnic, so pack accordingly. Arm yourself with an appropriate mindset that will help you adapt to lifestyle changes you're looking to make. Desert life is lived in isolation-no distractions in the form of entertainment, glamour etc. Challenge yourself by creating this experience at home, to focus more on God. A complete detox from SM (unless it's absolutely necessary for work), suspension of OTT subscriptions, cutting down on frequent shopping especially during sales, are some pursuits that work wonders.

There are two approaches one can take towards the season. A) Skirting around it with inconsequential sacrifices. B) Taking it seriously with no middle path, making it purposeful not hypocritical, not doing things for the world to see, but to allow God to love us more. Enter into Lent with a heart of

divine joyfulness, newness, looking for avenues to enhance the tenuous relationship you have with God, so as to be able to produce good fruit, in abundance. Lent is not to be considered so much as a dry season, as much as it is to be seen, as one of productivity. Look around and you will notice trees sprouting new leaves during this season, coinciding with spring.

Prayer, Fasting and Abstinence are a constant refrain during Lent. Someone might ask, 'Why should we be setting aside special days and seasons for these activities? As God's people shouldn't we be doing these daily? Of course we should! Human

nature weak as it is, Holy **M o t h e r C h u r c h** recognises that, if we have no time set aside for these disciplines, many of us will be tempted to neglect them totally. While the value of Prayer is immediately obvious, how are Fasting/Abstinence and

Almsgiving ways to holiness?

When we make small sacrifices that cause us discomfort, we learn detachment from things that we love more, than we love God. Prayer feels difficult, for it deals with our soul. We need to spend time in Prayer because, it leads to positivity. Jesus didn't say, IF you pray, He said, **WHEN** you pray.

Prayer is a privilege, for through it, we enter the court of Jesus, laying our petitions before Him. In prayer don't look for material blessings, physical healings, answers to petitions. Ask instead for spiritual gifts of: forgiveness, being able to love more, being joyful in all situations, being able to endure physical illnesses.

The 40 days of Lent developed as a way of recalling, our Lord's 40 days and nights of fasting, while he prayed



and battled with the devil, in the wilderness (**Luke 4: 1-13**). Ash Wednesday is not an activity to be tick marked, or an obligation to be fulfilled. Having our forehead marked with blessed ashes, is an appropriate expression of remorse, to begin this penitential season. Ashes = Dirt. The pride we have of: self, accomplishments, possessions comes to nought (**Genesis 3:19**). Their stain reminds us that sin stains us, and we need cleansing, through God's grace.

It's beneficial to go to Church as often as possible, so that God's Word can speak to our inner chaos, and transform us, pray before His Presence, to recognise His authority of love and mercy; not of domination and fear, participate actively in various Lenten programmes, to strengthen our faith, and make us attentive to His Voice. We don't know when and where God will speak to us.

Don't think of only the NO's that are going to define your days in Lent. Let there be a whole lot of YES'es. Yes to: love, charity, being good to all, smiling more, raising a hand in greeting, or nodding in acknowledgement when we meet people - something we're able to do only when we raise our heads, and not keep them bowed before the phone.

The key to being joyful during Lent is, not to approach the season as being dreary and cumbersome. Look upon it more as, saying a YES to God, a YES to His love.

Always, and mainly during this special time of grace, BEWARE of Satan= Deceiver. He tempts us by putting into our minds the idea that, 'God will understand if you don't do this or that. He will comprehend the difficulty you're having, in making efforts to turn your life around, and so gave up. He will perceive that you did start out well, but fell off the track, and went back to your old ways, **all because God loves you**'.

This Lent don't give Satan a chance, focus on God.



Ninette D'Souza is a prolific writer and retired teacher of Math and Science at Canossa High School, Mahim. She is also the author of Lamplighter and Lamplighter 2.0.

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An Incompatible Marriage Is A Myth And A Lie!

We'll Tell You Why!

- Lorraine & Leon Bent

The Secret of a successful marriage is not FINDING the right person, but BECOMING the right person! "Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate" (Mk.10:9).

This year, World Marriage Day on 8th February 2026, celebrated each year on the 2nd Sunday in February, precedes Valentine's Day on 14th February.

The magnificent vista of this write-up, indeed, is the coronation of a long-cherished dream for our marriage, always a work in progress, still waiting to be fulfilled!

The Sacrament of Matrimony empowers us with Trinitarian Love and Divine Power, to slay the devil and his evil forces, instantly! His dreaded army comes to us totally disguised, with the tools of materialism and modern technology, the craving for worldly things and human greed – like he did to Adam and Eve, camouflaged as a vicious, sleazy serpent.

The state of perpetual joy and serenity, peace and tranquility, and the feeling of being absolutely connected to the Supreme source of love, light, 'fullness of life (John 10:10);and 'high with divine elixir,' can be our gift! This is why those with feet of clay, like us, have to work hard to keep marriage vibrantly alive, continually, and not find an 'alibi' or pretext in "incompatibility!"

If we aim for a Christ-permeated style of living, we must sit in the lap of our Trinitarian God and Mother Mary, the Mediatrix of all grace. Then, every question will be answered, every doubt cleared, every truth revealed – one can continue to enjoy the 'welcome and hospitality' of God's reign, and Matrimony will soon be filled to overflowing, like an eye-catching, perennial fountain, of immortality and the supernatural.

Jesus, the third partner in every marriage, can make our nuptial love, a "work of art," and give it an 'aesthetic sheen and sensibility' for God's sake and our own, and that of our conjugal lover.

The Wedding Feast at Cana reminds us of the Importance of the Sacrament of Matrimony

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee,

and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus, then, worked his first miracle.

In this mystery, Mary's intercession plays a central role. Our Lady reveals to us the confidence needed to request a rarity, a phenomenon, a benediction from Jesus. Even when refused, she expresses trust: "Do whatever he tells you." She does not doubt her son's sensitivity and empathy for the new bride and bridegroom.

Fr. Gaetano Piccolo says, "It would be beautiful if every home ran out of wine due to their great hospitality. Only when we share all that we have, if we let it all be consumed, then will Christ come to repeat his miracle, giving us not just the drink that cheers, but the velvety, full bloodied red, aromatic, vintage and finest concoction ever brewed.

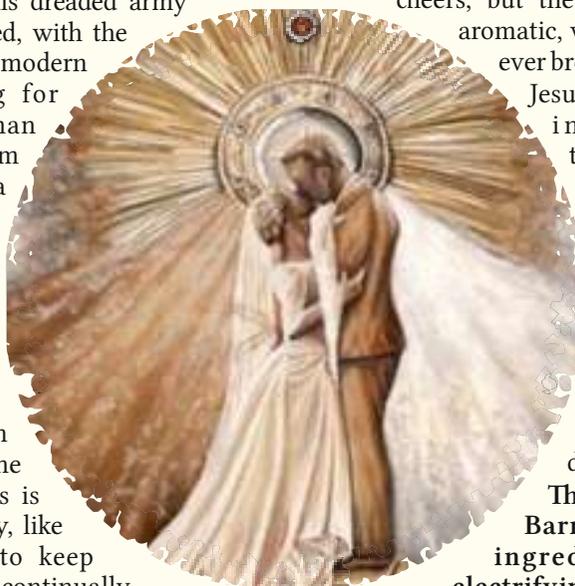
Jesus does not only change water into wine but he also transforms the jars. They are no longer containers for carrying out of the Jewish law, but become the source of joy. When a couple begins to assign responsibilities and obligations, or criticism and cynicism, it means that their hearts are empty like a drained jar."

This is what Bishop Robert Barron has to say: The key ingredient of a magical and electrifying Wedding Reception is

"wine." It brings exhilaration and merriment to the guests. It raises their spirits and is symbolic of divine life. Mary who sums up the patriarchs and prophets of old, tells the waiters. "Do whatever he tells you!" Fill the six empty jars with water: She now urges us to do the same. In our marriage, too, she asks that the jars be filled with water.

We need to contribute by giving Jesus whatever we have. Our virtues and shortcomings, or our marriage on the wane! He will transform our shortcomings and human frailties into a relationship of the highest supernatural and celestial order.

Conjugal twosomes should put themselves into the periscope or narrative, and stay in this kind of conducive atmosphere, where Jesus is pleading to the Father that married couples may be "one," so that, Jesus is glorified, and their marriage is animated and elevated.



Let's be blunt and succinct: "Without Jesus's presence and animation, marriage is doomed to die, like a wild flower which blooms, blushes and shrivels up, unseen, unsung!"

Avoid criticism, slander and condemnation like the plague. The nuptial pair must always have praise, thanksgiving, appreciation and affirmation for God and one another. We need to be positive all the time, so that, our togetherness becomes lyrical, lilting, rhapsodic and passionate.

Married love is a gift from on high. The more we are generous and open our hearts to our spouse, in pure, fireside-warmth, the more we will receive in return. Otherwise, we live in the "*cora macra*." God teaches us this lesson, through the parable of the Prodigal Son, in Luke's Gospel 15:11-32.

Our love for our spouse, too, must be like that of the grand-old father in the narrative. He was waiting for his lost son, and when he saw him in the distance, he 'sprinted' down a rough path to welcome and embrace him. He sped with reckless abandon. The father, without wasting time, put a ring on his once delinquent and self-seeking son's finger. He had died by being in the "*cora macra*," (a Greek word to indicate that one abandoned, forsaken or separated from God – *the great emptiness* - the source of life and abundance – Bishop Robert Barron), but is back home alive.

The father in this periscope, stands for God, who is Love and Mercy itself! The ring symbolizes a covenant of love. Married lovers, who are going through a dry patch, must be ready and willing to change from their life of aloofness, greed, lust, licentiousness and unforgiveness, to one of going back home, crestfallen, meek and contrite of heart, a person who had met his Waterloo in the face of sin, and decided to return to his father, in reconciliation and seeking forgiveness, mortification and submission.

Married couples who have lived in the 'black hole of separation,' should be like the younger son in this narrative. When brought to their knees, they need to repent and come back to their spouse, to whom they had sworn a lifetime of fidelity, even if it means staggering awkwardly, lumbering back to the one they had promised to "give and be everything!" It is only when one hobbles back 'home,' will one find "peace that passes understanding" (Phil. 4:6-7).

Husbands and wives invariably and deliberately attempt to find a scapegoat in the marital other, when things don't go their way. They call the person they once adored and loved so dearly, an adulteress (used symbolically here), and, in a fit of anger and fury, decides to get a like-minded group of friends to stone her/him as in the Gospel of John 7:53-8:11, and feel upbeat about crushing the spouse under a pile of stones. They are bent on trampling over and grinding to dust, the one they pledged "to offer selfless, untainted and undiluted love, irrevocably and forever."

What does Jesus do? He silently wrote in the dust with his finger, in the face of the sanctimonious and

moralizing, mob. Some biblical scholars say he scribbled the sins of each one who was part of the vengeful and self-righteous group – all this in silence... without even looking at them. The result: They left dejectedly and ashamedly, having met their worst ebb, staring at nothingness. **Silence and sheer calmness are divine ways to avoid belittling a person. The post-modern world would certainly call the "hell" into which a nuptial partner has fallen: Incompatibility!**

In all meekness and humility, we would like to consider this written piece a pioneering effort, as we have attempted the herculean task of dovetailing, "*riches*" of every kind into a single, straight 'road less travelled' recipe that, we hope will shape and form marriages after God's own heart. The originality and creativity of this massive task is what we claim. The actual content existed from time immemorial, and has been painstakingly culled over the years, laced as it is with our very own personal experience.

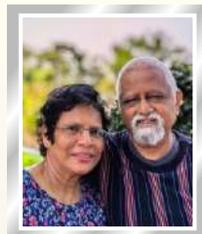
If one reads between the lines, the silence between words, the sacred spaces, one comes to the realization that, these are personal statements, with autobiographical tinges and traces.

The vital point we wish to make, in line with the theme of this Article is: Sin in the German language is "zunda," which quite ironically means "Temple," where God's glory meets the misery of sin. What an astounding, mystical turn-around! A priceless lesson for "couples in combat!" Please mull this fact over, before you give up on your partner. "Be the change you wish to see in him or her," is oft-quoted and true, despite its beguiling simplicity.

The fascinating ingredient about Christ-centered marriage is that, we are able to love our spouse in the power of Christ, even on the days they are unlovable and unloving, because of what St. Paul says in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me."

Everyone has bad days. Don't give up. But, never quit. Pause. Rest. Reset. Always pick yourself up and keep going, on and on. You will soon see bright, promising light at the other end of the charcoal-black tunnel.

And, finally, the punch line, the clincher! **We will imbibe without much ado, the in-depth and intense spirituality this near impossible dream for couple-intimacy and oneness offers us, if we celebrate it with intent, and Jesus' heart lodged in our own.** Isn't this awe-inspiring, world-changing? Terrific? A witness of the crucified-Jesus' love, extraordinaire?



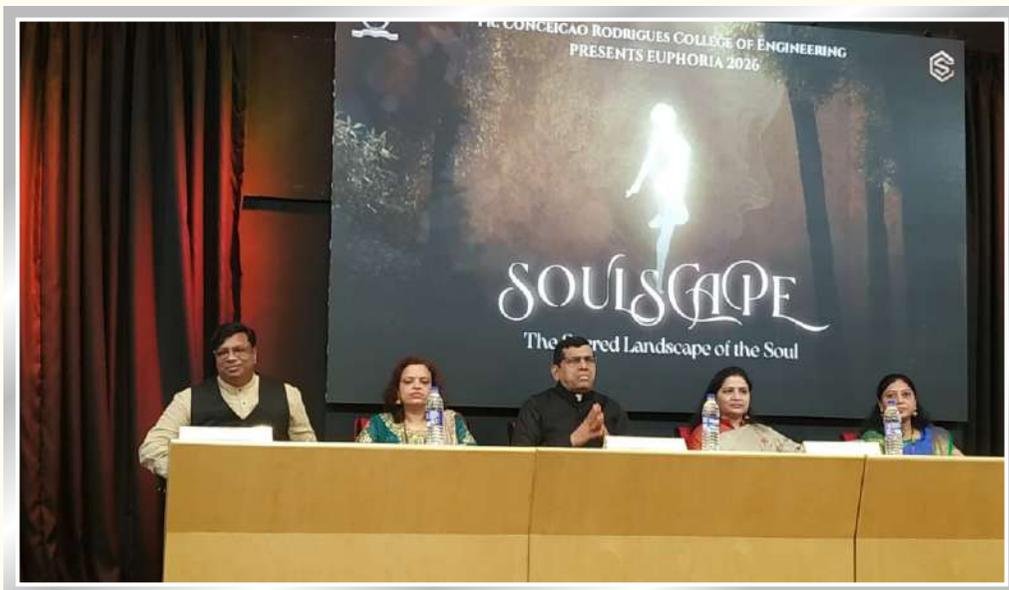
Lorraine and Leon Bent were filled with the spirit of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, India, for about 20 years and still are.

Euphoria 2026 – Soulscape: A Sacred Landscape of the Soul

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering (CRCE) came alive with creativity, passion, and collective energy during Euphoria 2026 – Soulscape, the annual cultural festival organised by the Students' Council under the leadership of the Literary and Cultural Secretary, Ms. Shreeya Kalbhor. Held from 19th to 23rd January 2026, Euphoria unfolded as a soulful celebration that beautifully captured the essence of artistic expression, teamwork, and student spirit.

The celebrations commenced on 19th January with a grand theme poster reveal, setting the tone for the festival. This was followed by a high-energy flash mob accompanied by dhol, drawing enthusiastic participation and instantly igniting excitement across the campus. The reveal marked the beginning of *Soulscape* - a theme symbolising inner emotions, individuality, and the diverse creative landscapes within every soul.

The official Inauguration Ceremony took place on 20th January and was graced by the Director of CRCE Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Dr. Sapna Prabhu (Principal), and Dr. Joseph Rodrigues (Dean – Students' Welfare).



Seen at the inauguration ceremony of Euphoria 2026 are (from left to right) Dr. Joseph Rodrigues, Prof. Garima Tripathi, Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Dr. Sapna Prabhu and Dr. Dipali Koshti.

Post inauguration, the day unfolded with **Battle of Beats**, conducted under the theme “**Tarana: The Songs of the Soul.**” Six energetic bands from colleges across Mumbai participated in this **inter-college competition**, delivering electrifying performances that captivated the audience. The event celebrated musical talent, rhythm, and creative expression, making it one of the major highlights of Euphoria 2026.

The evening continued with **Director's Cut**, an intra-college event where class batches competed by depicting movies of their choice through powerful performances. The event showcased cinematic storytelling, acting, choreography, and teamwork, making 20th January a day filled with excitement and artistic brilliance.

21st and 22nd January were dedicated to the **Domain Days** of Euphoria, witnessing enthusiastic participation in **18 events** spread across **Fine Arts, Literary Arts, Performing Arts, Submission, Personality Development, and Sports domains**. These days encouraged creativity, healthy competition, and inclusivity, allowing students from all backgrounds to showcase their talents beyond the stage.

The celebrations culminated on 23rd January with the **Grand Finale and Auditorium Day**, held at Ravindra Natya Mandir, Prabhadevi. Every class participated and performed, competing for various prestigious trophies. The day featured captivating performances, prize distribution ceremonies, and the Annual Day celebrations of the college. The event was graced by **Fr. Trevor Pereira (Assistant Director)**, **Mr. Aditya Prabhu (Guest of Honour)** and **Ms. Sayli Chaudhari (Chief Guest)**, a renowned actress in Bollywood and Marathi cinema, whose inspiring journey and words left a lasting impact on the student community.



(Left to Right): Assistant Director Fr. Trevor Pereira, Chief Guest Ms. Sayli Chaudhari, Principal Dr. Swapna Prabhu, Ex-Gen. Secretary Ms. Eram Sayyad, and Guest of Honour Mr. Aditya Prabhu at Euphoria 2026.

The successful execution of Euphoria 2026 was made possible by the relentless efforts of the **Students' Council** under guidance of **Prof. Garima Tripathi** and **Dr. Dipali Koshti** and the unwavering support of the management, Principal, faculty members, administrative staff and non-teaching staff.

Euphoria 2026 – Soulscape was more than a cultural festival – it was a celebration of unity, gratitude and collective joy.



Glimpse of a cultural programme presented at Euphoria 2026.

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Pune

Annual Sports Meet 2025-26 of Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune

Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune, had organised their Annual Sports Meet on 5th December 2025. The Chief Guest on this occasion was **Mr. Manoj Bhore**, who is the Vice President of the Maharashtra Olympic Association, the Associate Vice President of Hockey India, and the Senior Vice President and Founder General of Hockey Maharashtra.

Students enthusiastically participated in various races such as 100 mts, 200 mts, 400 mts Sprint Races, Obstacle Races and Relay Races. 867 students participated from Std. VI to IX wherein different cultural programmes were wonderfully presented such as 'Dazzling Sparklers, Veils of Grace, Rhythms of Bharat and Afroketet.'

Shreya Bhosure and **Asmit Darekar** were declared as the **Best Sportspersons**. They were presented with a trophy and certificate. **Courage House** was declared as the Runner-up House and **Compassion House** was declared as the **Winner House of the Sports Meet 2025-26**. The House Trophy was received by the respective House Captains.

The programme ended with a Grand Finale of 867 students performing to the beats of the theme song 'Grateful Hearts and Joyful Souls.'



'Compassion House,' the Winner House of the Annual Sports Meet 2025, saluting the Chief Guest Mr. Manoj Bhore, during the march-past.



'Courage House' with its uniformity.



'Honesty House' marching towards its goals.

Fr. Agnel's Vidyanakur School, Pune, celebrates Annual Day 2025-26

Fr. Agnel's Vidyanakur School, Pune, celebrated its Annual Days from 17th to 19th December 2025 in Fr. Agnel's Vidyanakur School for the primary section from Std. I to V. The Annual Day celebration was marked by a series of meaningful and inspiring skit presentations based on the lives of great personalities who have contributed immensely to society. Students showcased their acting skills, confidence and understanding of social values through these performances.



A skit on the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

A powerful skit on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj highlighted his bravery, leadership, sense of justice and love for his people. The performance instilled feelings of patriotism and respect for our rich history.

The skit on Baba Amte portrayed his selfless service to humanity, especially his work for the rehabilitation of leprosy patients. It conveyed a strong message of compassion, dedication and social responsibility.

The life journey of Sindutai Sapkal was beautifully depicted, showcasing her struggle, resilience and unconditional love for orphaned children. The skit deeply touched the audience and emphasized the importance of kindness and empathy.

Another engaging skit was based on Hirkani, the brave mother from history, whose courage and determination to reunite with her child inspired everyone present.

The skit on Sant Gadge Maharaj highlighted the values of cleanliness, simplicity and service to society, reminding students of their duties as responsible citizens.



Joy to the World: A skit on the birth of Lord Jesus.

Adding a spiritual dimension to the celebration, a skit on the birth of Lord Jesus beautifully portrayed the message of love, peace, humility and hope, spreading joy and reinforcing universal values of brotherhood and compassion.

All the skits were well-coordinated, rich in moral values and effectively conveyed important life lessons. The performances were appreciated by the audience and added great value to the Annual Day celebration.

Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida, celebrates Agnel Jayanti as Sadbhawana Diwas with Interfaith Harmony programme

In the current scenario when there is strife and tension in every land, Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida celebrated Agnel Jayanti, the birth anniversary of its patron, Ven. Fr. Agnelo D'Souza, as a 'Sarvadharam Mahotsav' on the theme 'Rang de Basanti.' Fostering the spirit of unity, harmony, and mutual respect among diverse faiths and communities, it is the tradition of Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida to hold such an **Interfaith Harmony programme**, every year.

This year's edition was unique, bringing together 70–80 distinguished leaders and eminent personalities under one roof to uphold the ideals of brotherhood and humanity among the students, the guests and the audience. The idea of **celebrating Agnel Jayanti as Sadbhawana Diwas** was applauded by the religious leaders and the guests alike as it reflects the school's commitment to unite the ideals of religious and communal harmony.



The former Regional Superior and the Manager of Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida, Rev. Fr. Bento Rodrigues (right), seen with Acharya Pramod Krishnan (third from right).

The interfaith meet was envisioned together by the Manager of the school, Rev. Fr. Bento Rodrigues and Swami Sushil Ji Maharaj with the shared mission of promoting oneness, and as a step towards building a more inclusive and harmonious society. The event witnessed the gracious presence of respected religious leaders from various faiths, government officials, international leaders and the representatives of different communities, reflecting India's rich pluralistic ethos.

A large number of students were present, actively witnessing and imbibing the message of communal harmony and universal brotherhood as future global citizens. The NCC cadets of the school played a commendable role in maintaining discipline throughout the programme.

The Main Speaker, Acharya Pramod Krishnan, along with other distinguished speakers, emphasised the timeless value of unity and the urgent need for the youth to imbibe the ideals of coexistence, compassion, and brotherhood. Also in attendance was Bishop Anil Couto who in his address emphasized on these same values. The programme beautifully echoed the message of, the world is one family, leaving the audience inspired to carry forward the spirit of harmony in everyday life.

The programme culminated with all participants coming together for a sumptuous lunch, reinforcing the spirit of togetherness and fellowship.



A section of distinguished leaders and eminent personalities taking an pledge at the Interfaith Harmony programme.



Fostering the spirit of togetherness, harmony and fellowship.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent

- Jubel D'Cruz

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent when Catholics all over the world confess their sins to a priest and profess their devotion to God. The ashes placed on our foreheads by the priest symbolises both death and repentance.

Ashes are a symbol of death as God formed humans out of dust: "Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person" (Genesis 2:7). Human beings return to dust and ashes when they die.

Ash Wednesday is inextricably linked to Easter. It marks the beginning of the Lent penance period that ends on Easter Sunday.

Even though the Easter story takes place in biblical times, the traditions of Ash Wednesday isn't that old -- it dates back to the 11th century AD.

In many churches, the ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves (leaves from coconut trees) from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations.

On Palm Sunday, churches bless the palms and hand them over to the congregation, a reference to the Gospels' account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when onlookers lay palm branches on His path. On both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics fast, meaning they eat less than usual.

During these days, it is not advisable to eat non-vegetarian foods like meat, eggs and fish. But milk, pulses, fruits and vegetables are allowed.

Many people keep the ashes on their foreheads for the entire day, as it is a sign that they are sinners and need God's forgiveness.

Even though there is no mention of Ash Wednesday in the Holy Scriptures, but there is a tradition of donning ashes as a sign of penitence that predates Jesus.

In the book of Job (42:6), the prophet repents: "In dust and ashes," and there are other associations of ashes and repentance in the books of Esther, Samuel, Isaiah, Maccabees and Jeremiah.

Ash Wednesday occurs six and a half weeks before Easter. This year, it falls on 18th February.

Ash Wednesday is significant because the placing of ashes on the foreheads of Christians is a sign of humility before God; a symbol of mourning and sorrow at the death that sin brings into the world. It not only prefigures the mourning at the death of Jesus Christ, but also places the worshipper in a position to realise the consequences of sin. The day places both Catholics and Christians of other denominations in the place of Jesus' entry into the desert before His death. It is a symbolic turning of one's heart towards

God, recognising the brokenness that exists and the need for salvation.

The ashes are imposed typically with the words: "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). These are the words that God spoke to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden after they disobeyed Him by eating the fruit from the forbidden tree, marking the consequence of their sin and their mortality, linking their physical existence to the earth from which Adam was made. These words are often recited during the Ash Wednesday services in church as a reminder of human mortality and the need for repentance, referencing the creation of man from dust and the return to dust after death.

The symbolism of marking oneself with ashes traces its history to ancient traditions. The liturgical use of ashes can be seen in the Old Testament, where they denote mourning, mortality, and penance.

In the book of Esther chapter 4, verse 1, Mordecai puts on a sackcloth and ashes when he hears of the decree of King Ahasuerus of Persia to kill all of the Jewish people in the Persian Empire. In Job 42:6, at the end of his confession, Job repents in sackcloth and ashes. And in the city of Nineveh, after Jonah preaches of conversion and repentance, all the people of the land proclaim a fast and put on sackcloth, and even the king covers himself with sackcloth and sits in ashes, as told in Jonah chapter 3, verses 5 and 6.

Just before the New Testament period, the rebels fighting for Jewish independence, the Maccabees, prepared for battle using ashes: "That day they fasted and wore sackcloth; they sprinkled ashes on their heads and tore their clothes" (1 Maccabees 3:47; and 4:39).

Both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are a perfect reminder that love comes with sacrifice. In order to truly love, one must renounce one's pleasure and self-interest for the good of the beloved.

The Church requires all Catholics from the ages 14-59 to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as long as you are in good health. This means that you should only eat one full meal on these days or two small meals that do not equal a full meal.



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.

Spiritual Purification is an Unavoidable Part of Your Spiritual Journey

-Vinay Silva

Beloved, we are God's children now ... And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure – 1John 3:2-3.

The concept of spiritual purification can be understood when we realize that our life is a journey from Point A to Point B. Point A is the place where you are at the moment. This includes your present spiritual state and where you stand in the 'here and now' with all your weaknesses, sins and failings. Point B refers to the desired destination of your soul which is Heaven. With all the ups and downs taking place, each and every day that you remain alive on earth provides you with opportunities to change for the better. It is certain that the Lord wants you to reach heaven. This is why He wants you to change and undergo *inner transformation* (1Thess 4:3) because '*nothing unclean*' can enter the eternal city of God (Revelation 21:27). This is the call to spiritual purification.

In life, there is a human tendency to develop attachments and inordinate desires. These cause a person to indulge in unnecessary past-times and pleasures which are harmful to the soul. In this context, there is a need for *inner purification*. If a Christian disciple continues going through life without getting purified, the closeness to the Lord gets compromised.

The topic of attachments is closely linked to the topic of 'idols.' Here, we are not talking about physical idols or statues. The theme of having idols in one's heart needs our urgent attention if we are to understand about spiritual purification. When a person entertains these attachments in life without trying to get free of them, the aspect of an inner spiritual 'idol worship' takes place. *Immense* damage is caused to the soul. As these attachments need to be removed, the term 'pruning' is relevant.

He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit – John 15:2.

The experience of being pruned is painful. When something dear to a person is removed from the person's life, there will be a resistance and struggle. This 'something dear' could be any attachment. This painful season is a divine favour from God. It yields spiritual growth which was previously blocked. The 'Refiner's fire' refers to the action of the Holy Spirit in the process of a person's purification (Mal 3:2). It is foolish to assume that all our purification would happen in Purgatory and to neglect the topic while we are alive on earth.



God expects us to be proactive and rid ourselves of impurities in the soul *here and now*. This is what we call 'active purification.' It happens when one willingly and consciously makes efforts to orient and alter his habits and lifestyle in order to be a better person. God gives help to those who sincerely seek it. 'Passive

purification' refers to the work of God in a person wherein the action is initiated from above. Here, the person is called to co-operate with the divine work. As a person gets purified in the spiritual journey, he becomes a better witness to Christ and serves God more fruitfully and effectively.

The stain of sin and disobedience to the Lord, the consequences of impurities in the soul and the effects of external influences (others' sins) are factors which affect purification. Satan plays his role of '*stealing, killing and destroying*' and Jesus plays His role of '*coming to give life in abundance*' (John 10:10). Which side do we co-operate with?

Cleansing and Sanctification

The concepts of Cleansing and Sanctification as a pair can be connected to the themes of 'Removal and Filling.' When a quantity of something is *removed* from a vessel or a container, it leaves behind a void and a space for something else to be *filled* in. Here, there is a replacement of the old with the new. The following Bible verse points to both cleansing and sanctification on a spiritual level.

A new heart I will give you. A new spirit I will put within you. I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh – Ezekiel 36:26.

This change of heart (from stone to flesh) points to some sort of deep purification. It happens with the humble confession of one's uncleanness (Isa 6:5), the desire to be cleansed, and a yielding to the Holy Spirit in spite of the sufferings and inconveniences involved. The cry of the Psalmist should be the continual cry erupting from each of our hearts.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me – Psalm 51:10.

The Attachments which creep into a disciple's life and cause damage to the soul

These include attachments to property, wealth, bank balance, possessions, persons such as family members or friends, comfortable lifestyle, food habits, travel and holidays, movies and entertainment, usage of media, gadgets, etc. Other attachments happen when a person has security and confidence in education, certificates, accomplishments and career, or has a hidden desire for reputation and praise, a craving for branded clothing or an obsession with appearance.

The dangers of having attachments are many. These are distractions in the way of true spiritual development. The attachments cause a spiritual blindness and influence human reasoning negatively. A union with the Lord will not be possible when there is a 'slavery' of any type. The infilling of the Holy Spirit gets blocked when priorities are diverted to one's self-gratification. The soul with attachments cannot listen to God's voice without stillness of the heart. For a positive change

to occur, there will *have to be* denial of self and willingness to carry the cross.

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit – John 12:24.

The 'thorn in the flesh' was given to St. Paul for his purification (2Cor 12:7). Through trials and seasons of pain and with the willing co-operation of the person, the Holy Spirit carries out a divine work of purification of attachments which yields many wonderful consequences. An inner freedom abounds which leads to humility and more trust in divine providence. Prayer life deepens and more intimacy with God is experienced. A person becomes a better witness to Jesus. This change results in a greater maturity in the assessment of life's situations and in decision-making. The ways of spending resources like time and money become more Spirit-led. Judgmental attitude decreases and poverty of spirit increases. At the end of the day, the treasure of an inner transformation is achieved. The purification and redemptive outcome is what matters!

Keeping in mind that we are all called to reach Heaven and get prepared for the eternal calling, it is certain that God desires one and all to undergo this necessary and essential spiritual purification. Let us never forget that a disciple of Jesus is the 'Bride of Christ.' Are we preparing to live out this role? Preparation for eternal salvation involves **spiritual purification**. The Holy Spirit is given to us as a Helper who we simply *cannot* do without! To walk in obedience to Jesus, we have to work consciously and actively on improving our spiritual lives. In this context, **Spiritual Purification is an Unavoidable part of your Spiritual Journey!**



Vinay Silva is based in Bangalore. Apart from writing for various magazines over the past ten years, he has written four books on Catholic Discipleship which are published by ATC Publishers. This article is a part of his fifth book titled "The Inner Man's Journey into the Deep."

Beautiful Lady in White, Lead us to Christ our Light

- Severina Peres

Lourdes in France was a quiet remote country town. Today it is a pilgrim shrine, thronged by millions throughout the year. In 1858, in a cave called Massabielle, Our Lady appeared 18 times from February 11 to July 16, to Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old French girl. Bernadette, the daughter of a flour miller, came from a poor yet God-fearing family which always helped the needy despite their frugal means.

Bernadette was gathering firewood with her two younger friends on the bank of the river Gave. Looking out for her friends, her attention was drawn to the rustling of bushes near a shallow cave or grotto. Bernadette saw a beautiful girl in white dress with a blue sash, a yellow rosette on each shoe, and a long rosary hung over her arm. This the first Apparitions at Lourdes, now more than a century and half later, has proved a veritable sign from God's Mercy and Healing to the pilgrims who flock there.

At the first vision, Our Blessed Mother seemed to Bernadette, to invite her to pray. The girl knelt, took the Rosary from her pocket and began to say it; the figure also passed the beads of the Rosary through her fingers, though her lips did not move.

During the first few apparitions, no words were spoken, only prayer and a little bow of her head with a benevolent smile from Our Lady. Mary brings to us the primacy and importance of prayer in the life of a Christian. The humility and love of the Queen of Heaven put the girl at ease before entrusting to her the mission of evangelisation.

During the fourth Apparition, the Lady spoke, "I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the next." Increasing crowds accompanied Bernadette to the Grotto. Her obedience and faith sparked faith and spiritual renewal. Over a period of time, Bernadette and her family faced the ire and the persecution from the authorities, she was even prevented from visiting the Grotto. Despite all Bernadette's focus was always on the Blessed Mother. Many false visionaries sprang with repellent messages, Bernadette accounts of her experiences were unemotional yet simple and candid. Mary's promise proved true, Bernadette was canonised in 1933 and her body remains

incorrupt till today. Mary stood by Jesus in His Passion, she stands by us in our suffering.

On February 25, 1858, Mary pointed to the spring of water near the grotto saying to Bernadette, "Go and drink at the spring, and wash yourself in it." Bernadette tried thrice but muddy water came out. At the fourth attempt she could drink the water. Within a week, a spring head of water flowed which is there till today. Lourdes is the sanctuary of spiritual health, Our Lady did not ever promise bodily cures there. The millions of healings down the years at Lourdes show God's concern and care for those afflicted with disease of body and mind.

On consecutive visions, Mary entreated for sorrow and penance for sin. On the feast of the Annunciation, Bernadette inquired, "Madam, will you please tell me who you are?" Repeating her query, Mary spoke to her: "I am the

Immaculate Conception." God has adorned Mary with a unique holiness from the moment of her Conception. St. Bernard's words inspire us to be grateful: "A woman (Mary) is given for a woman (Eve), a wise woman for a foolish, one humble for one proud. This woman does not offer you the fruit of death but the food of life."

Mary's goodness is present in us, beckoning us to embrace holiness always.

"The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing the pain of the other" is the theme for the 34th World Day of the Sick on February 11, 2026. St. Bernadette exemplified love despite her suffering, to honour Our Lady's message. At Lourdes, the pilgrim experiences an overflow of love in action. We pray to Mary, we pray with Mary, she accompanies us to experience for ourselves and others, the life in abundance which only Jesus gives.

(Historical Reference: A dictionary of Mary by Ronald Attwater.)



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

The year has begun in full swing and we are now in the month of February. February is a month of love and romance. St. Valentine's Day is the feast that puts red roses and chocolates on people's gift list making this month a very happy one. So with that romantic happy thought in mind, let's begin ...

Romance in the Air - A True Story



Adri Pendelton was setting off home with her 15-year-old Border Collie named Nelly. She was in Amsterdam and flying back to California. Her six-year-old relationship had ended recently and she was not in the

best of spirits.

The airline she was flying in refused to permit Nelly her dog to fly in the cabin. This was distressing for Adri because Nelly had epilepsy and a heart murmur. She turned to social media for help.

She met a stranger, a German pilot named Niklas Stoeterau who offered to fly Nelly and her as his 'plus one and a half' on a discounted plane.

The arrangement did not happen overnight. The two texted for nearly two months before going through this. They spent the next 15 hours en route to the United States getting to know each other.

Niklas says, "We could talk about the most random stuff and it just felt easy."

He even made friends with Nelly who was usually shy. Then the two decided to keep in touch for Niklas wanted to take her on a date. They both had felt drawn to each other.

He booked a flight to meet her and her family in a few months. Nelly lived for a month in California with Adris before passing away.

But to cut a long story short, Adris and Niklas found true love and there can be no denying the matchmaker pup Nelly's role in getting the two together, both remembering Nelly as "the ultimate wingman."

Inspirational Story



Steve Jobs, an American inventor and investor known for co-founding the technology company Apple shares a story from his past that made a huge impact on his life. He believes life

often involves connecting the dots.

He had dropped out of college but remained on

campus to take classes he was interested in and calligraphy was one of those classes.

A decade down the road, the same calligraphy that he was interested in prompted him to include different typefaces in the first Macintosh computers that they were developing at Apple and it was huge step in personal computers at the time.

Thus his interest in calligraphy did not go for waste. It led him to do important bigger things that led to his success. He believes that because he knew calligraphy, it helped him in his computers. He called this connecting the dots which means whatever we do in life however insignificant at that time, really does not go to waste but helps us in our other important endeavours.

Steve Jobs was also founder of NeXT and chairman and majority shareholder of Pixar.

Quiz

All About Hotels



1. Which is the most expensive hotel in Mumbai?
2. Which is the only hotel in the world that has 7000 rooms?
3. Which is the most expensive hotel in India?
4. Which is the tallest hotel in Dubai?
5. Name the 7-star hotel in Dubai?

The Most Popular Gifts for Valentine's Day



For most people, Valentine's Day means exchanging gifts and cards.

The most popular gifts on this day tend to be romantic centering on flowers especially roses, chocolates, cakes and personalised items such as jewellery, custom hampers, photo gifts, perfumes, watches or cozy home gifts like mugs and baskets. For example, one can get a mug imprinted with a romantic photo.

Soft toy and cushions too make the list especially cuddly teddy bears meant for the female sex.

Fashion accessories like scarves, bags, hats etc too make the list. Beauty hampers and scented candles are also popular.

Apparently according to surveys, girls like flowers, chocolates and more than 52 percent consumers will gift their beloved a Valentine's Day card.

Smile Please



1. Jim asks his friend Tony whether he bought his wife a present for Valentine's Day.

Tony smiles, "Yeah, I bought her a belt and a bag."

Jim says, "That is very nice of you. I hope she appreciates the gesture."

Tony replies, "Yeah, now hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better."

2. Boy to girl, "Are you a magician? Because whenever I look at you, everyone else disappears."

3. If you do not have a Valentine on Valentine's Day do not be sad, remember most people do not have AIDS on World AIDS Day.

One Liners for Valentine's Day



1. Do you have a map? Because I keep getting lost in your eyes.

2. If kisses were snowflakes, I would send you a blizzard.

3. You've stolen a pizza - my heart.

4. Wi-Fi? No, why? Because I feel a

connection.

5. Are you made of copper and tellurium? Because you are Cu-Te.

Riddle Me - Planets



1. I am the planet with the most bling. I have got rings you cannot help noticing.

2. I am closest to the Sun. I am small and speedy.

3. I have got rings and I am tilted sideways so my days take an odd pattern.

4. I am very big and a gas giant. I have a great red spot. I am the King of the stars.

5. I am the hottest planet and associated with beauty. I am not closest to the Sun.

6. I have storms that rage for hundreds of years. My winds are the fastest, no competition here.

Life Is Like This



1. The only basketball coach in who finished with losing record from University of Kansas is James Naismith. He was the man who actually invented the sport in 1891.

This highlights the irony that the visionary may not always be the most skilled practitioner.

2. A mother asked her young daughter if she could have one of the two apples the girl was holding. To her disappointment the girl took a bite of each the apples then handed over her mother one of them. "Mummy take this one, it is the sweetest one."

The mother who had been a bit angry realised her daughter only wanted to give her the best apple and she had been too quick to judge her daughter unfairly.

Naturopathy



1. Coughs and colds have many home remedies. Ginger and honey in a glass of warm water is effective. However, besides this one can also take an anti-allergic tablet especially as many coughs and colds can be the result of an allergy. The most common tablet is Avil and this can help in recovery faster with using natural home remedies.

2. Henna has long been used as a natural conditioner and dye. Many women use henna to hide grey hair particularly if they are few and it also helps in conditioning the hair. Lime juice added to the henna paste can help release the colour of it more effectively especially if you are looking to put a hint of reddish colour in your hair.

3. Cod liver tablets are very popular and they gained popularity in countries that see little sun especially during winter. This is because cod liver oil has vitamin D besides Vitamin A. Vitamin D is often lacking in many people especially as people age, even if they might get adequate sun. If your diet does not include fish like mackerels, sardines, tuna rich in Omega 3 then taking cod liver oil supplements is a good thing to do although if needed do consult your doctor.

Brain Teasers



1. What has an outer cover that has to be broken before use?

2. What five letter word becomes longer when you add two letters to it?

3. Tom was on a field. He ran for a while, turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he reached home, there were two masked men waiting. Who were they?

4. Your uncle has five daughters including Rose. Each daughter has one brother. How many people are in the family?

5. $X=200, Y=100, Z=300$. Then what is the value of A if it is a divisor of each and gives you a difference of 50 between each of them.

Inspirational Quotes



1. "The one who is meant for you encourages you to be your best but still loves and accepts you at your worst." - **Anonymous**.

2. "Love is not only something you feel, it is something you do." -

Craig Wilkerson.

3. "It is one thing to fall in love. It is another to feel someone else fall in love with you and to feel a responsibility for that love." - **David Leviathan**.
4. "Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength while loving someone deeply gives you courage." - **Zao Tzu**.
5. "You know you are in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams." - **Dr. Seuss**.
6. "Love is not about how many days, months or years you have been together. It's about how much you love each other every day." - **Unknown**.

Romance is in the air - It is never too late for love



Several decades after losing contact, Florence a lady in her sixties decided to contact her high school boyfriend, Frederick Paul around Valentine's Day.

Paul's wife, Helen had died a year ago, and Florence too had lost her husband a few years ago.

Florence thought that since both had lost their cherished life partners and would be lonely then she ought to reach out to him and say hello. She did that and suddenly after a few dates their high school romance rekindled. Except this time it was more than just infatuation, it was a deep love that they felt for each other. In their loneliness and shared grief, they found a haven of solace in each other.

"You would think we have been married for 60 years for that is the way we feel," said Paul excitedly, happy to found such a lovely partner to share his life. Florence says, "After a few years of loneliness and grief it is wonderful not to be lonely and to have someone to share everything with."

World News



1. U.S. President Donald Trump says he wants to make Greenland a part of the United States and does not rule out using military or economic power to get the island.

The island whose capital Nuuk is closer to New York than the Danish capital Copenhagen boasts of mineral oil, natural gas wealth but development has been slow. However so far Greenland is opposing this and the Prime Minister has stated that the island is not for sale.

2. Four astronauts will fly around the moon to test NASA's deep space capabilities. It is approximately a 10 day mission. However Artemis II will not land on the moon but instead will lay the ground work for a future lunar landing led by the Artemis III mission as humans will fly on the SLS rocket Artemis II and Orion Spacecraft for the first time.

Wisdom Message of the Month



A kind little boy was in a field playing with his friends. He found a cocoon and saw a butterfly struggling to emerge from the cocoon through a tiny hole. He was moved by the sight and wanting to

help began cut the cocoon open. The butterfly immediately emerged but unfortunately its body was weak and its wings never spread. It spent the rest of its life dragging itself around, unable to fly. The struggle to get through the small tiny opening was essential to force the fluid into its wings and body making it strong enough to fly on its own.

This story highlights that while life's struggles can weigh us down and trouble us, yet many a time they are essential for our growth. A man can only become a strong and best version of himself through struggle. If life is too easy, one remains arrogant and static and can never change. Through struggle one appreciates the outcome more than if there had not been any struggles and difficulties.

What do we learn?

Without struggles we become complacent and life has no real challenges. Through struggles we can become better empathetic people who understand kindness and try to be kind to others despite their social background. If we do not learn something positive from our struggles we become bitter, rude and mean spirited people with a frown rather than a smile on our face. So you find in this world two types of people. Those who become a stronger, nicer and better version of themselves because of struggle and those who become embittered and depressed people.

Therefore for any progress whether character development or real achievements, struggles are important.

That is all for this month. Take care, till next month...

Answers

Quiz. 1. Taj Mahal Palace near the Gateway of India. 2. The First World Hotel in Malaysia. 3. The Oberoi Udaivilas. 4. The Ciel Tower. 5. The Jumeirah Burj Al Arab.

Riddle Me. 1. Saturn. 2. Mercury. 3. Uranus. 4. Jupiter. 5. Venus. 6. Neptune.

Brain Teasers. 1. Egg. 2. Long-longer. 3. One was a catcher, the other an umpire. 4. 8 people. 5. A=2



Christine DSylva has just published her 40th book, available on Kindle and in paperback on Amazon. She is currently writing another book. She enjoys playing the piano and has a YouTube channel, Christine DSylva Fusion Kitchen.



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

THANKSGIVING TO VEN. FR. AGNEL FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

BOISAR: Whenever I seek the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel during challenging times, the Venerable helps me. He is in our midst, interceding for us always.

- *Veronica Moraes*

THANKSGIVING TO VEN. FR. AGNEL

MUMBAI: Even after his death, Ven. Fr. Agnel continues to help the needy and intercedes for us.

- *C.M. Rajan & Family*

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED

PUNE: I would like to offer four Thanksgiving Masses for all the blessings received, through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel.

- *Roque Rodrigues*

THANKSGIVING FOR SUCCESSFUL FISHING BUSINESS

UTTAN: Our fishing boat St. Jude has been blessed with a good catch through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel.

- *Vicky Possa*

THANKSGIVING TO VEN. FR. AGNEL

VASAI: Whenever I visit Fr. Agnel Ashram in Bandra, Mumbai, I am touched by the faith of the devotees of Ven. Fr. Agnel and offer him my thanksgiving.

- *Kalar Saurat Hetya*

THANKSGIVING FOR SECURING A GOOD JOB IN DUBAI

DUBAI: I am thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for blessing me with a good job in Dubai.

- *Michelle R. Dias*

THANKSGIVING ON WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

ENGLAND: We are thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for blessing us on our Wedding Anniversary on 27th January 2026.

- *Domingos & Priti Pereira*

THANKSGIVING TO VEN. FR. AGNEL

VASAI: I would like to give thanks to Ven. Fr. Agnel for his kind intercession and for all the blessings received.

- *Sarah Stephen Gonsalves*

THANKSGIVING FOR INTERCESSIONS

AUSTRIA: It was a wonderful spiritual experience visiting Fr. Agnel Ashram in Bandra, Mumbai, during my recent visit to India. I felt the power, peace and calm of Ven. Fr. Agnel.

- *Jlennis D'Souza*

THANKSGIVING FOR SECURING A GOOD JOB

POWAI, MUMBAI: Thank you Ven. Fr. Agnel for helping me find a good job, through your powerful intercession.

- *Vamsha D'Souza*

THANKSGIVING ON BIRTH OF CHILD

SION: Through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, we have been blessed with a baby.

- *Vignesh*

THANKSGIVING FOR HELPING IN CHILDREN'S STUDIES

GUJARAT: We sought the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel to help our children study well and they have obtained excellent results.

- *Deepak Parmar*

THANKSGIVING TO VEN. FR. AGNEL FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED

MAHIM: As a staunch devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I always seek his intercession. I am grateful to the Venerable for blessing me and my family.

- *Bosco D'Souza*

THANKSGIVING TO VEN. FR. AGNEL

VASAI: I thank Ven. Fr. Agnel for interceding for me and I pray for his canonisation as a Saint. The Venerable has performed miracles in many people's lives.

- *Ruben Vaz*

OUT OF THEIR BOUNTY

Pt. Kdgn Punj Charitable Trust	New Delhi	200000	Abhay Jha	Mumbai	2000	Pankaj V. Lakhani	Mumbai	1000
Carol Mathias	Mangalore	100000	Diana Rosario	Mumbai	2000	S. Prakash Kavita	Mumbai	1000
Praveen M. Srivastava	Mumbai	47000	Cranetech Equipments	Mumbai	2000	Sashida Bellarmin	Mumbai	1000
Agnel Cletus Pasanha	Norway	44250	Varsha R. Shukla	Mumbai	2000	Joseph Nadar	Mumbai	1000
Mario Aranha	Mumbai	25000	Ligory Lobo	Karnataka	2000	Joyce Sagar Jamble	Mumbai	1000
Severine Saldanha	Karnataka	25000	Craig Rodrigues	Mumbai	2000	Roy George	Kerala	1000
Mrudulaben I. Shah	Gujarat	21000	Florence Karl	Mumbai	2000	Allf Anto Jack	Kerala	1000
Baptist Fernandes	Mumbai	15000	Samantha Rodrigues	Palghar	2000	Kurian George	Kerala	1000
George Lobo	Mangalore	10100	Peter V. Fernandes	Mumbai	2000	Elvis Joel D'Mello	Karnataka	1000
Mary S. Sequeira	Palghar	10000	Isabel Hendricks	Tamil Nadu	2000	Mayookh Ramesh Dave	Gujarat	1000
Roshny D'Souza	Moodbidri	10000	A. R. Elavia	Mumbai	2000	July Matthew	Kerala	1000
Swaroop/Susan D'Souza	Mysore	10000	Pauline Fernandes	Karnataka	2000	Monica D'Souza	Pune	1000
Suman Panjikaran	Kerala	10000	Vinita Lazar	Mumbai	2000	Joshua Rodrigues	Mumbai	1000
Allan Rodricks	Palghar	10000	Clement Hinda	Mumbai	2000	Mary Antony	Kerala	1000
Gregory M. Pillay	Pune	7000	Solanki Hitendra N.	Diu	2000	Rockhenry A. Chettiar	Mumbai	1000
Eugine Joseph	Canada	6389	Mathew Cherian	Kerala	2000	M.D. Mathai	Kerala	1000
Fredric Lall	Mumbai	6000	Shefin Shelton	Kerala	2000	Joseph Varghese	Kerala	1000
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	5250	Rebecca D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	Geet Pujara	Gujarat	1000
Jacob Puthur	Kerala	5000	Vallery D'Silva	Goa	2000	Elizabeth Pious	Kerala	1000
Yudh Vijay Nautiyal	Mumbai	5000	Hyacinth Kenny	Mumbai	2000	Carmo Rafael Pegado	Goa	1000
Sairus J. Rangoonwala	Mumbai	5000	Lovy Thomas D'Souza	Muscat	2000	Valerian Ozzie D'Souza & Fly	Mumbai	1000
Swapnil Simon Colaco	Palghar	5000	Philomena Mendonca	Mumbai	2000	Arun Jadhav	Kolhapur	1000
Roshan Mathias	Mumbai	5000	Hufriz Kaiky Karkaria	Mumbai	2000	A. Santhappan	Tamil Nadu	1000
Shamuual Parmar	Mumbai	5000	Gulnar Katakai	Mumbai	2000	Lily Abraham	Kottayam	1000
O. C. Georgekutty	Kerala	5000	Deepak Macwan	Gujarat	2000	Hiren Gala	Mumbai	1000
Diana Valentine	Kerala	5000	Jaison Chackochen	Kerala	2000	Philip Lopes	Mumbai	1000
Jean & Osmund D'Cunha	Mumbai	5000	Marshal A. Fernandes	Mumbai	2000	S. Jestine Sales	Tamil Nadu	1000
Domnic Pinto	Mumbai	5000	Benedicta Desouza	Mumbai	2000	Aditi Mihir Doshi	Mumbai	1000
Lynette Lillian D'Cruz	Mumbai	5000	Lawrence Desouza	Mumbai	2000	Jenisha Justin Manuel	Navi Mumbai	1000
Anastasia Gonsalves	Mumbai	5000	Caleb D'Sa	Mumbai	2000	Sujata S. Matla	Mumbai	1000
Reginald D'Souza	Palghar	5000	Gracian Desouza	Mumbai	2000	Aruna Fernando	Tamil Nadu	1000
Mercy Sebastian	Kerala	5000	Royal Dias	Mumbai	2000	Aryam Ishwar Attara	Mumbai	700
Joaquim Fernandes	Mumbai	5000	Kimaya Subramaniam	Mumbai	1501	Liya Libin	Kerala	600
Ruzbeh Soli Irani	Mumbai	5000	Thomas T. Punnen	Kerala	1500	Canute D'Souza	Chennai	600
Blossom Leo Dabre	Palghar	5000	Antony M. O.	Kerala	1500	Marian F. D'Souza	Mumbai	550
Stanly & Lita D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	Gavin Peter Fonseca	Mumbai	1500	Sejal Perin Gala	Mumbai	501
Errick Elavia	Mumbai	4501	Dhanunjaya Patnaik & Fly	Mumbai	1500	Prashant Ashok Parab	Mumbai	501
Florence Karl Rodrigues	Mumbai	4000	Roy Joseph	Mumbai	1300	Anand Shirali	Mumbai	501
Adolf Pinheiro	Mumbai	4000	Mary Peter	Mumbai	1200	Geeta T. Tekchandani	Mumbai	500
R. Radha Krishnan	Chennai	3000	Rita Johnson	Kerala	1200	Thresiamma Joseph	Kerala	500
Nikita Creado	Mumbai	3000	Unmisha Bhatt	Mumbai	1100	Veera Silveira	Palghar	500
M. J. Pereira	Pune	3000	Shailesh Panchal	Mumbai	1100	John D'Cunha	Palghar	500
Techno Products	Chennai	3000	Vinod M. Parsawala	Mumbai	1100	Ramesh B. Kamble	Mumbai	500
Sandra Lorena	Mangalore	3000	Raniben Parbat Bariya	Gujarat	1100	Abhishek Sudhir Parab	Mumbai	500
Fransquinha Fernandes	Mumbai	2500	Bhakti V. Asani	Mumbai	1008	Sunil Bharati	Mumbai	500
Manoj Balani	Mumbai	2500	Mahesh Rukhana	Mumbai	1008	Rani Sebastian/Priya S.	Kerala	500
Craig Rodrigues	Mumbai	2000	Kimaya Subramaniam	Mumbai	1001	Anthony Vincent Xavier	Mumbai	500
Conrad J. Rodrigues	Mumbai	2000	Joshua Rodrigues	Mumbai	1000	Ramesh Thakker	Mumbai	500
Chetan Asher	Mumbai	2000	Sweeton Rodrigues	Mumbai	1000	Leena Rodrigues	Thane	500
Prakash Swamidas	Mumbai	2000	Daisy Murugan Nadar	Mumbai	1000	Shubham & Vishal Wakhude	Mumbai	500

BOB'S BANTER

by Robert Clements

Therapy without Walls..!

The school buildings had been torn down a year ago. Flattened. Cleared. Wiped out. All to make way for something modern. Something glassy. Something that probably has air conditioning that actually works. Where our school hall once stood, there is now another building. Where we once stood nervously waiting for the assembly, there is now ... progress. So when our little group of former students walked in yesterday, we walked into unfamiliar territory. We were visitors in a place that used to belong to us. It felt strange. We expected nostalgia. We expected memories. We expected to feel slightly lost. What we did not expect was therapy. It has been decades since we were students together. Decades since we shared lunchboxes, whispered answers in class, passed notes, and invented excuses for unfinished homework. Life happened in between. Some of us have lost parents. Some, a child. Some have lost health. Some have survived surgeries, accidents, betrayals, disappointments, and illnesses that have names longer than the queue outside an OPD.

Nobody was a businessman. We were simply classmates. Equal. Unimpressive. Comfortably ordinary. And deeply connected. There were no counsellors in the room. No couches. No soothing background music. No framed certificates on the wall. Yet healing happened. People shared losses casually, without drama. Others listened without trying to fix anything. Heads nodded. Eyes softened. Silence did its gentle work. This is something therapy clinics rarely advertise. Sometimes healing does not need techniques. It needs togetherness. It needs people who knew you before you became complicated. People who remember you when your biggest problem was unfinished homework, not unfinished life dreams. At the end, when we stood up slowly, to leave, something beautiful happened. Almost everyone said some version of the same sentence. "I really needed this." That sentence carries weight. It means somewhere inside, a tired soul found rest.



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We arrived carrying invisible luggage. But within minutes of sitting together, something shifted. Nobody asked, "So what do you do now?" Nobody asked, "How successful are you?" Nobody asked, "How many properties do you own?" Instead someone said, "Do you remember how Mr. DeCosta recited Shakespeare?" And just like that, therapy began. Laughter is a powerful medicine. It does not require a prescription. It has no side effects. We laughed at each other's grey hair. At receding hairlines. We laughed at expanding waistlines. We laughed at jokes we had forgotten we once found funny. And strangely, they were still funny. We spoke about teachers who are long dead, but very much alive in our memories. The strict ones. The kind ones. The slightly mad ones. The headmaster who frightened us into studying and also how he made us love learning. For a few hours, nobody was a retired bank manager.

The buildings may be gone. The walls may be unfamiliar. But the real structure of our school was never brick and cement. It was relationships. Those remain. So if you are searching for therapy, try this. Find someone who once knew you when you were younger. Sit. Talk nonsense. Laugh. Remember. You might discover that the most effective therapy in the world has no walls at all. Just people. Who care...!

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

**157th Birth Anniversary Celebration
of Ven. Fr. Agnelo D'Souza at Fr. Agnel Ashram,
Bandra, Mumbai on 21st January, 2026**



**Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Superior, Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra,
welcoming Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza, Bishop of Vasai.**



**Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza delivering
the Welcome Address.**



**A scintillating instrumental music performance
by the Balbhavan boys of Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.**



**A beautiful dance performance by the students of
Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Ambernath.**



**Bishop Thomas D'Souza celebrating the 157th
Birth Anniversary Mass of Ven. Fr. Agnelo D'Souza.**



**Bishop Thomas D'Souza (centre) giving his blessings.
Also seen are Rev. Fr. Saturnino Almeida, General Councillor,
Agnel Region (left) and Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza (right).**



**Bishop Thomas D'Souza burning incense
around the image of Ven. Fr. Agnelo D'Souza.**

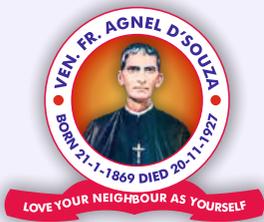
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