

FR

December 2022



# AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS



*For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given*

FR. AGNEL  
ASHRAM

# NEWS

December 2022

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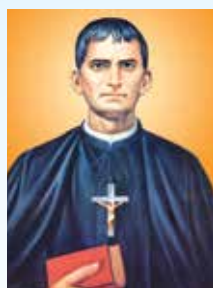
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## VEN. FR. AGNELO'S 154<sup>th</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023

### PROGRAMME SPECIAL NOVENA SERVICES 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**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 Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023, all Masses and Novena  
Services will be held as on normal Sundays.

On Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> January, Novena Services  
will be in Gujarati at 3.00 p.m.

### 21st January (Saturday) : 154<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Venerable Fr. Agnelo D’Souza.

**Morning** : Mass followed by Novena Prayers at 7.00 a.m. &  
9.30 a.m.

**Evening** : Gujarati Novena Service at 3.00 p.m. & A Solemn  
Concelebrated Mass will be held at 6.00 p.m. in the  
Ashram Compound.

Thousands of devotees will participate in this Annual Novena  
and Celebration. Over one lakh of favours, some of them truly  
miraculous such as cure of cancer, T.B., Paralysis etc. have been  
received through the powerful intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnelo.

Favours obtained and petitions to be placed at the Shrine of  
Ven. Fr. Agnelo may be sent to the following address :

**Rev. Fr. Superior.**

Fr. Agnel Ashram  
Bandstand, Bandra (West),  
Mumbai – 400 050, India.

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



# Jesus is God's Definitive Self-Revelation!

-Fr Fio Mascarenhas SJ

I begin by referring to our beloved Pope Francis' captivating Apostolic Letter, *Desiderio Desideravi*, published on 29th June 2022, and directed to all the faithful, in which he tells us that the issue at heart (at the Christmas and other Masses) is the internal disposition of all those involved, celebrants and participants alike, and their capacity for stupore ("wonder," "awe," "astonishment"):

***"The amazement or wonder (stupore) of which I speak is not some sort of being overcome in the face of an obscure reality or a mysterious rite. It is, on the contrary, marvelling at the fact that the salvific plan of God has been fully revealed in Jesus Christ!"***

*[Desiderio Desideravi are the Latin words that Jesus exclaimed before the Last Supper: "With great eagerness and emotion, I have desired to eat this Passover meal with you."]*

Let me also remind the reader that the Letter to the Hebrews long ago expressed the universal significance of Christmas beautifully, by stating: "At various moments in the past and by many means, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets: but in our time, the final days, he has spoken to us **in the person of his Son**" (Heb.1:1-2). God has not just "spoken" but actually "**become incarnate**" in the historical person of **Jesus**, who lived amongst us for 33 years in the Palestine/Judea of those times!

Pope St. John Paul II has called the Incarnation of Jesus "**the greatest work of the Holy Spirit in the history of creation and salvation, the supreme grace, the source of every other grace**" (*DeV*, 50). And St. Paul observed keenly, "**When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of baptism and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that we might become heirs in hope of eternal life**" (Titus 3:3-7).

No other historical founder of a religion can rival Jesus Christ. "*He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created,*

*in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible ... all things were created through him and for him ... **For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell***" (Col.1:15-19). As the apostle and evangelist John puts it, in this Jesus, who was revealed at the first Christmas, "**was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it**" (John 1:2-5).

Actually, Christmas is Good News not for Christians only, but for the whole of humanity! Moreover, it is not just good news to be read in print (in the Bible), but to be **actually experienced** within the hearts of innumerable **persons of goodwill**, in whose hearts, Vatican II tells us: "the Holy Spirit is at work invisibly, in a way known only to God." As for us Christians, we must allow this same Spirit of God to fill us with happy **memories** and great **hopes**, thus strengthening our unique identity and special character: "**Through its shared memory and expectation of Jesus Christ, the people of God knows by faith, truths and realities that other peoples neither know, nor can ever know about the meaning of existence and human history**" (Pontifical Theological Commission, 1985).

In today's age of secularism too, the Catholic Church wishes to remind all people about the urgent significance of Jesus. With stirring words, the Second Vatican Council pointed all peoples towards Jesus Christ:

"The Church believes that Christ, who died and was raised up for all, can through his Spirit offer man the light and the strength to measure up to his supreme destiny. Nor has any other name under heaven been given to man by which he is saved. She likewise holds that **in her most benign Lord and Master can be found the key, the focal point, and the goal of all human history.**

"The Church also maintains that beneath all changes there are so many realities which **do not change** and which have **their ultimate**

**foundation in Christ**, who is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. Hence, in the light of Christ, the image of the unseen God, the Council wishes to speak to all men and women, in order to illuminate the mystery of man, and to cooperate in finding the solution to the outstanding problems of our time” (GS, n.10).

Historically, and existentially for human beings, all this started with Christmas! “*In those days a decree went out ... Glory to God in the highest heavens, and on earth peace and goodwill among people*” (Luke 2:1-14). So Jesus is the **only** reason for our annual Christmas celebrations, and the season has particular graces for every Christian, to enable him/her to interiorize, and personally deepen, Jesus’ presence and action in one’s daily life. This will mostly happen by a daily *Lectio Divina* (prayerful meditation for 10-15 minutes on the word of God). Well-meaning human study is not enough, God’s continuing and

direct personal revelation is needed, which is why St. Paul prayed: “*May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ give you a spirit of wisdom and insight into what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him*” (Eph. 1:17-19).

Let us all, then, at this Christmas 2022, not just sing well-beloved carols we learned in our childhood and youth, but make new efforts to personally enter deeper, with “**stupore**” (awe, amazement, wonder) into the life-giving mystery of Jesus’ Incarnation and birth (as well as his death on the Cross-cum-Resurrection), for He alone is the source of all human fulfillment. Happy **Christmas!**

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Fr Fio is Emeritus Chairman of the Catholic Bible Institute, Mumbai, and author of 18 books on biblical spirituality for lay people. He can be contacted at [frfiomas@gmail.com](mailto:frfiomas@gmail.com)



## There is no Joy Greater than the Joy of GIVING

### **John Giebfried and Amanda Cherian, Europe**

I have completed a transfer of 300 Euros (Rs. 23,817) to your account for the purpose of sponsoring two children. Please use the extra funds to pay for the Christmas gifts for the children. This is a charitable gift to your organisation.

### **Sharad Gandhi, London, UK**

As a token of our profound gratitude, I have sent a donation of Rs.1000 as foreign contribution. We are ardent devotees of Ven. Fr. Agnel for the past several years. We have received numerous favours through his heavenly intercession. He has been a source of solace and help in time, in our life.

### **Bharti & Mulraj Sheth, Chowpatty Sea Face, Mumbai**

I would like to share the happiness and joy of my 80th birthday with all the children of Balbhavan under your care. I appreciate the great work done by all the staff members and all of you. I am

enclosing two cheques of Rs.1,000 each for the children of Balbhavan.

### **Anne Marie D’Souza/Biswajit Das, Kolkata**

The sum of Rs. 30,000 has been sent to your account via NEFT, as donation for meals... breakfast/evening snacks for the orphan boys and towards the charitable activities of Fr. Agnel Ashram.

### **Praveen Madhur Srivastava, Kandivili**

Please accept my donation of Rs. 70,000 towards Fr. Agnel Ashram’s Balbhavan orphanage. I have been a regular monthly contributor since 1996 and support the cause of education, food and clothing for the orphan boys.

### **Catherine Fobler, Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

I have sent a donation of Rs. 5000 for thanksgiving for healing received by my 7-year-old grandson. In thanksgiving for the favours received, I have transferred Rs.10,000 in October. I pray for Fr. Agnel to be canonized a Saint. God bless you and all at Fr. Agnel Ashram.

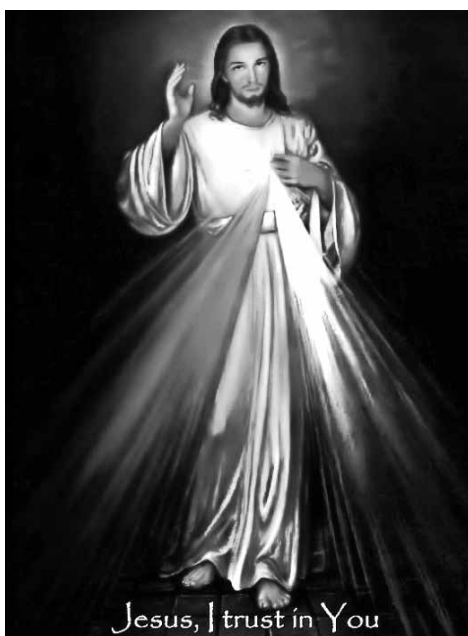
# The Christmas Theme – “Bring Christ Back Into Christmas!”

*-Judith de Almeida*

**CHRISTMAS** – ‘The Season of Christmas’ unfolds an entire season of joy and happiness. But what is the de facto reason for this so-called JOY? Is it just the joy of celebrations, entertainment, presumptuous meals and tantalizing sweets? Why do we celebrate Christmas on such an enormous scale? The basic underlying reason being the ‘Birth of Jesus Christ’, who became man in order to save us from going to the fire of hell, at the end of our lives, because of the sins we have committed. The majority of us have opted to leave this truth at the back of our minds, as we advance into Christmas. We follow the sin of Debauchery as it is called, i.e. entertainment, eating, drinking, dancing, music, making merry, etc. Christ is literally left far off from Christmas.

**‘CHRIST’**- Even the word ‘Christ’ in Christmas is being eliminated. Today, Christmas is called the “Holiday Season” the world over. One can enter a shop, mall, hotel or restaurant, engulfed with Christmas decorations, BUT yet not find a single sign, hint or image of anything that depicts or reminds you about ‘JESUS CHRIST’, who is the main reason for the season. People don’t even want to admit anymore that the “Holiday Season” is celebrated because it is the birthday of Jesus Christ. **Jesus, clearly states in the Bible-Luke 9:26 “Whoever**

**is ashamed of Me and My Words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when He comes in His glory and in the glory of the Father and of the Holy Angels.”**



‘Jesus’ is downright missing in Christmas. That same ‘JESUS CHRIST’- the only one persona - God’s only Son who died for each one of us, and through his unblemished sacrificial death, cleansed us of our infinite number of sins, so that we may enter Heaven, as The Bible explains it, **Romans 5:8 “But God shows**

**his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

We are in ardent need of restoring Christ back into Christmas in our own modest actions, some of which are listed below :

- **Christmas Cards** - Buy cards that exhibit the image of Baby Jesus/ Mother Mary. Sadly, we hardly ever buy Christmas cards which have the Holy Family image – Why? Maybe because it’s simply not too attractive or maybe not designed to be attractive, done with an objective to eliminate Christ from Christmas !
- The entire Christmas market is pre-planned and begins from October itself - three months ahead !!! Parallely, an Advent program could be conducted for the people, three months prior to

25th of December - the Birthday of Jesus Christ. Christmas preparation courses could be started to welcome Jesus into our hearts and souls. That would sideline the tremendous, unimaginable expensive arrangements made for parties/dances during Christmas.

- Massive Donation-Drives - for food, money, clothing and daily necessities, for the old and poor could be carried out.
- Christmas Stars - that we so proudly put up, should necessarily have an image of the Holy Family or 'Baby Jesus'. In fact, no star should be bought, which does not have the picture of the Holy Family on it.

- Furthermore, our Christmas tree decorations, along with Santa and other decorative articles should have a small Crib or a Holy Family picture as a decoration piece hung from it.

Why, the West depicts startling facts of modernization and materialism resulting in 99% celebrations and only 1% Christ now left in Christmas. Is it possible to comprehend the extent to which Christmas sales and profits successfully plummet, around the world, during Christmas, and that too is achieved by keeping Christ completely out of Christmas?

We live in a world that is mercilessly materialized. Tearfully, the fact still looms large over us, that Christmas is being celebrated the world over, without our Lord Jesus Christ in it!

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## AGNEL CO-OPERATORS

You can join the Ashram Family by becoming a member of Agnel Co-operators and enjoy the fruits of a Special Daily 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.

Membership Fees:-

Ordinary Co-operators

Individual : ₹100/-

Family : ₹500/-

Benefactors : ₹1000/-

Patrons : ₹5000/-

Please contact:

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

**"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree is the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other."**

-Burton Hills

# The Contemplative Genius of John Main O.S.B.

-Christopher Mendonca

In his preface to the Book *Moment of Christ* Fr. Laurence Freeman, the Benedictine monk and disciple of John Main writes: Perhaps because it was the last thing that he wrote, not many weeks before his death, I have re-read Fr. John Main's foreword to the book many times. Although we did not fully understand how close to death he was, it seemed to me that it would be his last written message and so he compressed into a few hundred words an experience of prayer and a zeal to lead others into it.

**December 30, 2022 marks the 40th death anniversary of John Main, the Benedictine monk who re-discovered the long lost tradition of Meditation in the Western Church.** It is an appropriate time for those of us who feel called to go beyond the ritual observances of our Christian upbringing and allow the Silent Presence of the Risen Lord within us, to become the source of and give meaning to everything we do, everything we are.

Monologistic prayer – the prayer of the single word phrase, is no stranger to Eastern Religious traditions. It is just that for the last four centuries or more, the Catholic Tradition in the Western Church with its need to have a well-defined doctrine allowed it to overshadow the experience of God as a Mystery beyond all knowledge. John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila, two most prominent among the few others, kept the mystical tradition alive through their writings and teachings. But though reading the writings of the mystics may create in us a desire to experience what they experienced, we lack a practical method of enabling us to do so. The Cloud of Unknowing, the Way of the Pilgrim, the Jesus prayer simple practical means of enabling us to do so, remain largely unknown to the ordinary Catholic. Yet these are essential links between the Eastern and Western Christian tradition that

go back to Early Christianity and in particular to the Desert Fathers between the 3rd and 5th centuries of undivided Christendom.

A chance meeting with Swami Satyananda while in Malaya as a member of the British Colonial service brought John Main into contact with this universal spiritual tradition of repeatedly reciting a mantra to still the mind and so come

to an awareness of God's Indwelling Spirit. Deeply impressed by his calm wisdom and peacefulness while visiting his orphanage, when asked if he meditated, John Main responded with the tradition of Ignatian method. The Swami offered a different method and offered to share it with him if he was willing to learn. "To meditate, one must become silent. You must be still and you must concentrate. In our tradition, we know only one way in which you can arrive at that stillness,

that concentration. *"We use a word; we call it a mantra; it is a word, a sacred word from your religious tradition. To meditate what you must do is to choose this word and then repeat it, faithfully, continually. That is all there is to meditation."* No thoughts, no words, no imagination. The sole sound is that of your mantra. Like a harmonic within ourselves we begin to build up a resonance between ourselves and all creation and a unity between ourselves and our creator.

Meditating with the Swami once a week for 18 months, John Main without compromising on his religious beliefs, began to meditate twice a day, morning and evening as the Swami had insisted. He experienced all the joy and excitement of the daily pilgrimage of his morning and evening meditation. It became the axis on which his day was built. In Silence, Stillness and Simplicity, he had begun to enter into the depths of Christian Contemplative Prayer. Taking this practice with him when he joined the Benedictine Monastery, he, however, in a spirit of obedience and self-





surrender, went back to the traditional Ignatian form of meditation, since his superiors were wary of it, coming as it did from an alien, non-Christian source. "I learned to become detached from the practice that was most sacred to me and on which I was seeking to build my life as a monk. Unwillingly, my novice master had set out to teach me detachment at the very centre of my life."

In doing so, John Main epitomized the teaching by his life. This death to self was only a prelude to the "resurrection" that was soon to follow. A few years later as headmaster at St. Anselm's Abbey in Washington, a casual enquiry from a student on the history of the Contemplation brought him to the Good News that this very practice was part of the Christian Tradition. The desert fathers and in particular John Cassian in his IX Conference on prayer recommends the recitation of a single verse. Devoid of thoughts, ideas and images, it prepares us with ready ease, to come to that first of the Beatitudes – blessed are the poor in spirit, through the poverty of a single verse. John Main also found out that St. Benedict referred his monks and so also him, belonging to the Benedictine Community, to John Cassian to learn to pray. Continuing his reading on the contemplative Christian tradition he discovered the "The Cloud of Unknowing" written in the 14th century by an anonymous mystic. It says: "Use this little word and pray not in many words but in a little word of one syllable. Fix this word fast to your heart so that it is always there, come what may. With this word, you will suppress all thoughts." This source confirmed the use and practice of prayer using a single prayer-word / mantra in the Christian tradition. It proved to be the turning point for John Main.

He would from now on, make it his mission to teach this form of contemplative prayer to others. The Universal call to holiness proclaimed by Vatican Council II meant that was not

the prerogative of only priests and religious. In the face of the Church in the world today, contemplation is conspicuous by its absence. John Main took the opportunity to teach others a simple contemplative practice rooted in the Christian Tradition. Beginning with a small centre in London in 1975 followed by a retreat in 1976 at Gethsemani Abbey, Kentucky, USA, a meeting with Thomas Merton and the Trappist monks representing the Christian Contemplative Tradition and finally the invitation by the English Speaking Bishop of Montreal to start a monastery there, were stages in what has now become the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM). Under the guidance of Fr. Laurence Freeman OSB, his faithful disciple and in a sense 'the disciple whom he loved' the WCCM has grown by leaps and bounds. Begun in 1991 it now has its headquarters in London and an International Retreat Centre in Bonnevaux in France.

While there are meditation groups in more than 60 countries worldwide, there are also many individuals who use this contemplative practice as part of their daily discipline of prayer in India. Notably in Mumbai the practice has been nurtured and fostered by three weekly meditation groups in the city. Silent Retreats, Days of Silence, Meditation Seminars, Essential teaching workshops have been part of our mission to encourage the lay faithful as well as priests and religious since March 2004 to adopt this daily practice of Meditation in the Christian Tradition allowing it to open to them the door to Contemplation. These have helped keep alive the vision of John Main. You are invited to keep in touch with the WCCM International Community by visiting [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org). In Mumbai you can email [wccmindia@gmail.com](mailto:wccmindia@gmail.com) to keep in touch with us and thus share in the vision of John Main especially at this time.

**"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with great joy."**

**-Mathew 2:10**



## Quizzers do Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Vashi, proud

**D**aksh Shah and Vedant Wayal, students of Std. X of Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Vashi, did their school proud by winning the first three levels of the **‘BHARAT KO JANO’ inter-school quiz competition 2022** (Senior

September 2022 in Vashi. **The Agnel team stood first among 12 schools in Navi Mumbai.**

On 9th October, Agnelites Daksh and Vedant competed with teams from ten other branches of Bharat Vikas Parishad from all across the Konkan province (Mumbai to Sindhudurg). The Agnel team was the only team to cross the hundred points mark and win the quiz with 110 points to their credit!

This victory took the Fr. Agnel School team to the regional level contest on 20th November 2022, where they faced teams from six other provinces of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa. Once again, Daksh and Vedant

outclassed the rest and reached the final level of the competition, which will be held on 7th January 2023 in Ghaziabad.

All the best to the two quizzers and their **mentor teachers Shalini Gupta and Gijan George!**



*Daksh Shah and Vedant Wayal excel in quizzing.*

Group), organised by Bharat Vikas Parishad. This is a unique quiz contest that motivates students to learn and know more and more about India's glorious history, culture and heritage.

Level 1 of this year's contest was held on 18th

## Agnelite bags Gold and Silver at National Athletics

**S**aif Farooq Chafekar, a student of Std. X of Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Vashi, won a Silver medal in 80m hurdles boys under 16. He represented Maharashtra at the **National Athletics Championship 2022**, organised by the Athletics Federation of India at Guwahati, Assam. He also won a **Gold medal as a part of the medley relay team for Maharashtra.**



*Saif Farooq Chafekar wins a Gold and Silver medal.*

medal, narrowly missing the gold which was won by Kiran K of Kerala in 10.61 seconds.

Saif, manages his academics and sports efficiently as he trains under the watchful eyes of Agnel athletics coach Shrinivas Gupta. Shrinivas has been instrumental in producing several National level athletes in the past. He also coached Diandra Valladares and Sai Sawant, two podium finishers at the 2022 National Games

held in Gujarat last month.

Saif clocked 10.62 seconds to win the Silver

# Agnel Happenings

## Agnel Melody Makers win laurels

**A** team of eight gifted vocalists from grades VI to XII of Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Vashi, had an amazing journey in the 2022 Chorus singing competition organised by Bharat Vikas Parishad.

Sanskrit song. The lyrics had to be chosen from Bharat Vikas Parishad's book - "Chetana ke Swar". Every song was a unique composition based on Indian classical music. The competition was undoubtedly a tough one but the talented Agnelites proved to be a shade better than the rest



*Singers (L-R): Aroh Tamboli, Ayan Ajin, Smriti P., Arushi Mukhopadhyay, Gandharva Koli, Thomas Lukose, Tanvi Kulkarni and Swarnakumari Muppana.*

After winning the first branch level inter-school competition held at Modern School, Vashi, the Agnel team competed at the zonal level at NES, Mulund and bagged the first prize once again! This victory took the team to Surat, where they represented the Konkan province and faced the winning teams from seven other provinces, namely, Saurashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Vidharbha, Mumbai, Paschim Maharashtra and Devgiri.

This event was held on Sunday, 27th November 2022 at Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (Surat). The esteemed judges along with a very appreciative audience witnessed the best performances from all the eight provinces. Each team presented a Hindi patriotic song and a

and they won the coveted **Winner's Trophy at Surat.**

Sri Swaroop Muppana, music teacher at Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, who played the Harmonium, set the soul-stirring music and trained the singers. He was accompanied by Agnel music teacher, Vailanni Fernandes on the Violin and Sri Umesh Patil on the Tabla.

The jubilant winners are now preparing for the final, national level competition to be held on 18th December 2022, at Bilwada, Rajasthan. The Agnel Family of Vashi wishes them All the Best!



## Pope: Volunteers are the strength of the Church

**Pope Francis encourages and thanks volunteers for their service to the Church and urges them to accept it as a grace of God that they should accept with strength.**



Pope Francis sent a message to the volunteers for the upcoming World Youth Day on the occasion of International Volunteer Day, commemorated annually on 5th December.

In a short video in Spanish, Pope Francis said that he has been most impressed by the “strength of volunteers” whenever he visits churches.

Volunteering, said the Pope, is a “shocking force” that departs from patterns to “carry out something” as it has the “perseverance to carry something forward.”

He went on to give the example of those who volunteer to care for the sick, pointing at the

example of the men and women who “are there all day long” using their free time to work with the sick.

### **Volunteering – a grace from God**

“Volunteering is a grace from God,” the Pope affirmed, urging volunteers to “please accept it with strength.”

“Do not be afraid”, Pope Francis urged.

The Pope further added that “volunteers are the strength of the Church” as they are “a dimension of the Church’s mission because you go there with your volunteering and maintain so many actions of the Church.”

Bringing his message to a close, the Pope expressed

his gratitude to the volunteers for their generosity – the generosity that every volunteer has.

### **International Volunteer Day 2022**

International Volunteer Day 2022 celebrates the theme of “Solidarity through volunteering”. It highlights the capacity of collective humanity to stimulate positive change through volunteer efforts.

The Pope’s message comes as preparations are beginning for the event that gathers young people from all over the world, which is scheduled to hold from 1 – 6 August 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal.

-VATICAN NEWS

**Look to the LORD and his strength;  
seek his face always.**



# Mary Embraced Life

-Tancia Pires

***“My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in Lord, my Saviour!”***

What a beautiful way to accept such a daunting challenge, that had the potential to completely change her life; that too for the worse. Yet, Mary, that she is, who's always known for the unusually astounding choices she makes by completely surrendering to the will of God. This virtue of Mary, of complete surrender, without giving a second thought, is what amazes the most. How? How is it so easy for her to do so? How can she gather so much courage and accept God's plan with no questions asked, or worries put forth? How is it humanly possible to just trust God blindly and agree to endure all the pain and suffering that came along, with her 'Yes'?

The answer might be different according to each one's opinion, experiences, knowledge, belief, etc. but what I feel, is that, it was possible only because she was the 'chosen' one. The one filled with God's abundant grace as she was totally determined to do His will, was a woman of prayer, was pure beyond imagination, and most importantly, obedient and loving like the Father Almighty. All these virtues are seen in every step of her life, as we read in the Holy Bible.

## **Mary Embraces Challenges**

The Annunciation of the Lord by angel Gabriel, and the implications of this would surely be a herculean comprehension. Mary was betrothed to Joseph and before they could live together as husband and wife she was to be pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. What if Joseph disowns her? What if she was condemned to death by stoning for immorality as done in those times? Mary's mind was surely flooded with all these questions but her faith in the Almighty led her to say 'Yes'.

Since childhood Mary was faced with challenging circumstances and trials, the very first being the call to an Immaculate Conception, which

she accepted willingly. Call to be an aid to her cousin Elizabeth, even while she was expecting, she didn't bother about herself, this reflects her selfless nature, her concern, and her compassion towards others. At the time of Jesus' birth too, being an expectant mother, she travelled afar, knowing the journey would be difficult, yet she was determined and full of faith. She didn't shy

away from giving birth to the Son of God, the king of kings, in a stable with all humility. Soon after labour, the flight to Egypt sounds humanly impossible, yet Mary with her spouse overcomes all obstacles only to protect, baby Jesus with sheer dedication and responsibility. She could have fallen weak, given up, and done what anyone else in a sane mind would have done, thought about her needs and comfort before anything else. She didn't. She was thoroughly determined to do the will of God and was filled with zeal to fulfil her promise.

## **Mary Embraces Jesus**

Even after Jesus' birth, the problems and difficulties didn't stop, they grew bigger with each passing day. She faces the dark truth that her son won't be her own forever, and she'll have to sacrifice Him for the sake of the human race. Yet she nurtures Jesus with the utmost care, comfort, and protection. She follows him at His trial, she tries to support Him and becomes His strength in his trials and suffering. Her son is beaten, bruised, humiliated, and torn apart. What would a mother have felt at that moment? What excruciating pain she might have gone through looking at her bleeding son, yet she stands right beside His cross even while he's being crucified, she doesn't leave sight of Him, and soon after His death she's seen weeping and embracing the lifeless body of her son, what misery, what agony and anguish... beyond the description of words. Her pain is rightly equated to the seven swords piercing right through her heart. Such a dedicated, strong and powerful woman she is, indeed.

*Contd. on pg. 14*



# Feast of the Holy Family

-Christine D'Sylva

“Waste time with your children, so that they can realise that Love is always free.” - Pope Francis

“To hand onto your children, the faith you received from your parents is your first duty and your greatest privilege as parents. The home should be the first school of religion.” - St Louise Therese de Montaignac

Everyone needs a house to live in, but a supportive family is what builds a home or else the house is just four walls made of concrete or stone. It's the love, trust and affection between the members residing in it that makes a home a safe, beautiful place to be cherished.

This year, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on 30th December. This feast is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honour of Jesus of Nazareth and his earthly parents, St. Joseph and Mother Mary.

In the New Testament, we see the contrast between King Herod, a typical anti-family man and St. Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus who is a selfless protector of his wife, Mary and child, Jesus. Herod on the other hand based his whole existence on selfishness, only concerned about himself. St. Joseph trusted and obeyed the Word of God while Herod based his actions on his own ego.

When we study the life of Mary and Joseph, we find a couple who were homeless, fleeing for safety from evil King Herod and having a life that was not safe and comfy. It was a life that was stressful and filled with anxiety. They represent people who are marginalised, refugees, those living on the fringes of poverty and have a simple, austere lifestyle. We are called to reflect on our own more comfortable existence and be filled with gratitude.

When the angel appears to St. Joseph and warns him to flee to Egypt, we see how God's protection is so essential in our lives for our safety. Never should we take our safety for granted. We are but

mere flesh and blood. We can meet death or danger anytime when we least expect to. But when we put our trust in God we realise we can walk safely. Let's not forget the power of reciting the Three Hail Mary's every day for God's protection. Let's reflect on this psalm from the Bible.

*When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
And when you passed through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.*

*When you walk through the fire,  
You will not be burned,  
The flames will not set you ablaze.  
- Isaiah- 43:2*

This feast should also make us reflect on marriage. St. Joseph married Mary and he honoured her. He took his vows seriously and viewed marriage as a Holy Sacrament.

When a couple works hard to build a good, stable marriage, they are just reflecting the beautiful marriage between Christ and his church. Marriage is not a bed of roses. It is a holy state in which a couple are joined together for better or worse, in sickness and in health and in riches and in poverty. The vows they utter in solemnity at marriage, only reflect that from henceforth they will be living as a team in love and holiness, reflecting God's love for his church.

The kids they get are just an extension of this love. They now have a family like St. Joseph and Mary who had Jesus. The father has to work to provide for his family and look after their needs. St. Joseph worked hard as a carpenter to provide for his family's needs. The mother has to be a pivotal force to keep the home running smoothly and the family united in love.



Today many women are working, mainly because of financial necessity. But we must never underestimate the pivotal role a mother plays at home as a housewife. She is the bedrock of a stable family who keeps her home filled with the feelings of warmth, love and security. This role of a stay at home mother must never be underestimated. One who thinks crèches, maids can do the same job are sadly mistaken and have erroneous views. Nobody can take a mother's place in the home. No well-meaning aunty, maid or relative can function as a surrogate mother as lovingly to the child as his own mother provided she is loving, kind and takes her duty to build a home seriously.

The mother of Jesus, Mother Mary was a simple, hardworking housewife who cared for her home devoutly. Her example is one many young women today should strive for. Their prayer should be, "Mother Mary, teach me to be more like you -

selfless, devoted and forgetting my own ego and materialism, but reaching out to those dearest and closest to me. Help me build a warm and loving home that reflects the loving home that Jesus shared with St Joseph and Mother Mary."

I think this will result in a reduction in divorces, marital conflicts and broken homes. Let's take a moment to reflect on our homes today. Is it a place more than just brick walls? Is it a place of security, a sanctuary of love and goodwill?

Search your hearts for the truth. This feast day we are called to celebrate the Holy family and to celebrate our own families in our homes in gratitude by our unconditional love, respect and understanding towards each other.

Mother Teresa said, "If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family."

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*Mary Embraced Life- Contd. from pg. 14*

### **Mary Embraces Us**

The importance of Mary and her role in the Life of Jesus is so evident and crucial. Her striking virtues make her the 'chosen one'. Many still question the Immaculate Conception of Mary, and controversies still hover over us about this abstract phenomenon. There are factions of society that still don't value Mary and her contribution to Jesus' life or our salvation. But we as children of God should have enough faith to believe in God's mighty power, that with Him, all things are possible and so did the mysterious happenings in the life of Mary take place.

At the wedding at Cana, Mary asks Jesus to intervene and save the bridal couple from humiliation and embarrassment, and it is because of her pleading, that Jesus performed His very first miracle. Yes, Jesus is always shown to be obedient to his mother, even if he says no, at first. Just as Mary was concerned about others, she is concerned and considerate towards our needs as well, so won't she intercede for us, the creation of God? Her apparitions, the miracles, healings in her name and other mysterious things are all shreds of evidence of her intercession for the world. Jesus gave us Mary as our mother at Calvary. Let us see this grant in faith and cry out to her as her child. Let our devotion towards our Heavenly mother lead us to her Son and let us follow her words: "Do what He tells you."

### **Are we willing to embrace Mary?**

In this modern era of quick solutions to every obstacle, we have lost the fighting spirit, we have become weak in our knees and thoughts of suicide and depression take the better of us. Abortions, murders, and merciless wars have taken a toll on this world and we have forgotten to embrace the essence of life, living beings and nature. Selfishness, greed and envy have crept in and are on the rise as the human race has forgotten to live in peace, harmony and compassion. When faced with challenges in life, we soon hold God responsible and walk away from Him, we grow anxious and often fall out of faith, and we have zero endurance for pain and suffering.

Reflecting on the life of Mary, we have a strong example of endurance and perseverance. Mary inspires and motivates us to gather courage to say "Yes" to the will of God. Let us surrender our lives, our shortcomings, our problems, our worries and all our burdens into His hands. Let us live with utter faith, just like Mary did, with the firm belief that He is in control of all that happens in our lives and with Him, all things are possible. She becomes to us the 'rock of faith!' As her children, let us strive to deepen our faith, and make a concerted effort to inculcate the virtues she cherished. Let us embrace her and her glorious virtues wholeheartedly just as she embraces us as we are.



# Saint Francis Xavier: the Patron Saint of Goa

*Jacqueline Kelly*

**I**f one observes the lives of saintly men and women, one will note that it was primarily their capacity for love due to deep attachment to God, which resulted in their extraordinary service in the cause of humanity. Today, there is great need for such people of committed holiness to ensure the protection and preservation of the human race on this planet.

These saintly beings, spent hours each day in earnest intercession to God for the welfare of the human race. They lived in monasteries, deserts and mountain caves, adhering to a meagre diet and even a self-imposed vow of silence, unaware of what is going on in the world around them. The saintly beings who, once walked the earth, by their exemplary lives have tried to point the way for us ordinary mortals to follow.

Saint Francis Xavier, the Second Apostle of India, was born to Don Juan de Jassu and Maria de Alpilcueta in the family castle of Xavier, near Pamplona in the Basque area of Spanish Navarre on April 7, 1506.

A Spaniard by birth, he had been a student and professor in the University of Paris, the best in Europe at that time. He secured his licentiate in 1528, fell under the spell of Saint Ignatius Loyola, who during two years of companionship never ceased to reprove him: "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, if he suffers the loss of his own soul?"

In 1534, at Montmartre, Francis was second among the band of seven who took their vows as the first Jesuits on August 15, 1534 and founded the Society of Jesus. He was ordained a Priest on

June 24, 1537, celebrated his first Mass after 40-days of rigorous fasting and spiritual preparation and went to Rome in 1538.

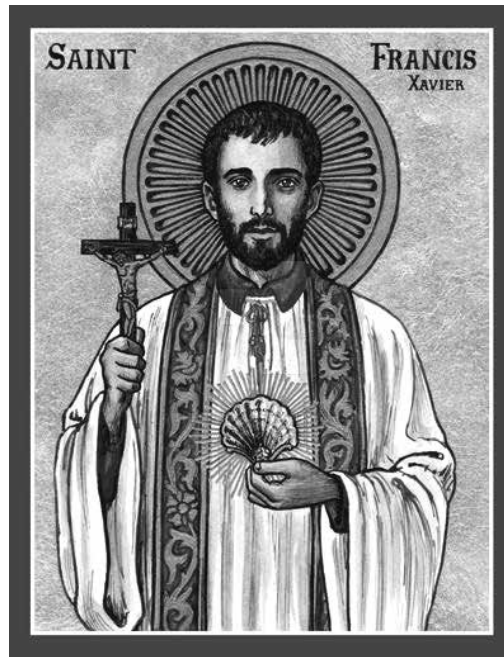
At only a day's notice, Francis set out with the Portuguese Ambassador on the three months' trip across the Alps and Spain to Lisbon. The 11,000-mile sea voyage consumed thirteen months, six months of which were spent at Mozambique where he preached and gave aid to the sick.

Francis arrived for the first time on the shores of India (Goa) on May 6, 1542 with Fr. Paul of Camerino, an Italian, and Francis Mansihas, a Portuguese. There he busied himself learning the local language, nursing and comforting the sick, preaching and teaching catechism, living among the natives and adopting their customs.

From Goa, Francis went South to the Fishery Coast and spent two years among the Pearl fishers, learning their language and instructing them carefully for weeks and months before baptizing them. His

novel method, which met with great success, was to go through the streets chiming a little bell, and when the children and their mothers came flocking, he would lead them to a Church and explain the faith with admirable patience and affectionate zeal. "I let them enter by their own door, but I see to it that they come out by mine!" he would say. During the next decade, he converted tens of thousands to Christianity.

The year 1544 saw Francis in Ceylon; from there he went to Malacca, to the Spice Islands, to Cochin-China, and some believe that he even



reached Philippines. Then, having met a fugitive from Japan, he undertook a missionary journey to that island, landing in Kagoshima in Southern Japan on August 15, 1549. Struggling with the language, and in spite of bitter opposition from the Buddhist monks, his preaching accompanied by numerous miracles, succeeded in drawing many to the Faith that within a span of forty years, the faithful in Japan increased in numbers.

In late August, 1552, he reached the island of Sancian (Shangchuan, off the Chinese coast). What he had seen of the Chinese civilization in Japan led Francis to plan the evangelization of the forbidden Celestial Empire; but the Chinese pirates who had been promised a great sum to smuggle him into Canton, never came, and after three months of fruitless wait in a windswept hut on the Sancian island of Canton, he succumbed to fever on December 3, 1552. His life was cut short at the age of forty-six. Antonio China, the Chinese convert who had accompanied Francis to Sancian, wrote: *“with the name of Jesus on his lips, he returned his soul into the hands of his Creator and Lord with great calm and tranquility”*. His dying words were: *In te, Domine, speravi non confundar in aeternum* (“In you, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be confounded”).

On December 11, 1553, his body was shipped to Goa and has remained incorrupt where it is venerated to the present day in the Bom Jesus Basilica. His right arm, however, severed at the elbow was sent to Rome at the orders of the then Jesuit General Claudio Acquaviva, is enshrined there in the Church of the Gesù. Among the first petitioners for his beatification was his Patron, King John III. In 1556, the King ordered his Viceroy in India to have testimonies taken on Xavier's life and virtues. The King's wishes, along with that of many others, were fulfilled on October 25, 1619, when Francis was beatified by Pope Paul V. He was canonized by Pope Gregory XV on March 12, 1622 together with Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Avila, Philip Neri and Isidore, the Farmer. In 1748, he was declared Patron of the Orient; in 1904, Patron of the Work of the Propagation of the Faith, and, in 1927, together with Therese of Lisieux, Patron of all Missions.

Ten years of missionary labour had taken St. Francis Xavier into over fifty kingdoms, enabling him to win almost a million souls for God and lay a lasting foundation for the six great Asiatic mission fields. Rightly then, he has been named the “Apostle of the Indies” and Patron of the Propagation of the Faith and of all foreign missions. Working against great difficulties, language problems, inadequate funds and lack of co-operation, often actual resistance, from European officials, he left the mark of his missionary zeal and energy on areas which clung to Christianity for centuries.

The high esteem in which Saint Francis is held in Goa, where he laboured in the vineyard of the Lord, and the impact he made there, is visible in the overwhelming religious presence of Churches and Shrines, and evident in the practice of Gospel values which have shaped and moulded the community. The Society of the Missionaries of Saint Francis Xavier, commonly known as the Society of Pilar, is an indigenous Society of Apostolic Life founded by Fr. José Bento Martins Ribeiro in Goa in 1887. One of the Members of the Society, Venerable Fr. Agnelo D'Sousa, is close to be declared a Saint. The Society was re-organized in 1939 by six Priests and two brothers. Today, the members of the Society are working in their missions all over India and in Nepal, primarily among the tribals. The Society is growing in size and number. Today, they have one Bishop, 31 dioceses in India and 9 overseas.

Francis Xavier, one of the most lovable of saints of the Christian Calendar, was full of love for God and this was reflected in the love he bore for his fellowmen.

The XVIIIth Solemn Exposition of the Relics of Saint Francis Xavier, popularly known as “Goycho Saib” will commence on November 21, 2024 and will end on January 5, 2025. The decennial event will be held in Old Goa, and the spotlight will be turned on the life and activities of St. Francis Xavier, who was one of the outstanding men of the 16th century and who is considered to be one of the greatest missionary saints.



# FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

## BLESSED WITH A CHILD

**TAMIL NADU:** Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, we have been blessed with a baby. With a grateful heart, I have come to the Ashram and made a love offering.

-M. Philomena

## THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS & FAVOURS RECEIVED

**BHAYANDAR:** Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my prayers have been answered. I have been blessed abundantly. A love offering has been given at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

-S. Sambre

## THANKSGIVING FOR SECURING A GOOD JOB

**BAHRAIN:** I am thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for helping me get a good job. I have come to the Ashram and made an offering.

-T. & L. Misquitta

## THANKSGIVING FOR 15 YEARS OF HAPPY MARRIED LIFE

**VASAI:** Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, we have been blessed with 15 years of successful marriage. A thanksgiving offering has been given to the Ashram.

-R. Colaco

## SUCCESSFUL ENTRY INTO CANADA

**BANDRA:** I am thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for my daughter's successful visit to Canada. With a grateful heart, I have come to the Ashram and made a love offering.

-M. Coelho

## GOT RELIEF FROM PAIN

**DHARAVI:** A neighbour of mine had not eaten food and had pain near the ribs. After

applying the blessed oil from Fr. Agnel Ashram, he got relief from pain, had food and got a good night's rest. Also my husband was very ill and hospitalised. After praying to Ven. Fr. Agnel and applying oil on him and other patients there, they felt good and their condition improved. With a grateful heart, I have come to the Ashram and made a love offering.

-S. Mary

## THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

**BANDRA:** Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, many prayer requests have been granted. A thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-M. D'Cruz

## FLOURISHING FISHING BUSINESS

**UTTAN:** Through the blessings of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have my own fishing boat and a flourishing fishing business. In gratitude, a thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-D. Raj

## FREE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION

**DHARAVI:** My son Chetan fell into bad company and was addicted to drugs and alcohol. Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, he has got rid of his addictions. A thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-Pauline

## THANKSGIVING FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

**SION:** As a couple, we have been blessed with a successful marriage, through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. A love offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-S. Kumar & R. Sudha



# Out of Their Bounty

D. Rebello	Karnataka	30,000	R. Macwan	Gujarat	4,000	A. Jambusaria	Mumbai	1,000
C. Fernandes	Mumbai	25,000	A. Mascarenhas	Thane	3,000	A. Pereira	Mumbai	1,000
P. Pinto	Karnataka	25,000	M. Cardoz	Mumbai	3,000	A. Rodrigues	Mumbai	1,000
Jeekay Ent.	Navi Mumbai	22,222	S. Rajagopal	Mumbai	3,000	A. Santhappan	Tamil Nadu	1,000
D. D'Cunha	Goa	20,000	V. Fernandes	Mumbai	3,000	A. Shah	Mumbai	1,000
S. Rane	Palghar	20,000	Elton/Esther/Lloyd	Mumbai	2,900	A. Sheth	Mumbai	1,000
M. Dhariya	Mumbai	17,050	S. Gonsalves	Vasai	2,700	A. Singh	Mumbai	1,000
A. Williams	Bangalore	16,000	C. Tiwari	Mumbai	2,500	A. Stephen	Tamil Nadu	1,000
Warren/Philomena	Mumbai	15,700	Dr. S. Patelja	Gujarat	2,500	A. Thomas	Kerala	1,000
Melanie/Gladys	Mumbai	15,000	Techno Products	Chennai	2,500	Abba Const. Dev.	Thane	1,000
T. Porathur	Gujarat	11,400	S. Mistry	Mumbai	2,100	Anu/Merlin	Mumbai	1,000
J. Raiyani	Mumbai	11,000	A. Aranha	Thane	2,000	B. Barretto	Mumbai	1,000
N. Upadhyaya	Mumbai	11,000	A. Doshi	Mumbai	2,000	B. Dutt	Kolkata	1,000
V. Shah	Mumbai	11,000	A. D'Souza	Vasai	2,000	C. Bardolwala	Mumbai	1,000
C. Jethwani	Mumbai	10,500	A. Elavia	Mumbai	2,000	C. D'Souza	Tamil Nadu	1,000
J. Kanjiraparambil	Kerala	10,500	A. Lopes	Vasai	2,000	C. D'Souza	USA	1,000
P. Rustomji	Mumbai	10,002	A. Nadar	Mumbai	2,000	C. Jacob	Kerala	1,000
A. Nagarsheth	Gujarat	10,000	A. Nazareth	Thane	2,000	D. Pereira	Mumbai	1,000
D. Fernandes	Mumbai	10,000	A. Soares	Mumbai	2,000	D. Remgis	Mumbai	1,000
F. Fernandes	Mumbai	10,000	B. Sequeira	Mumbai	2,000	Darragh Smail Co.	Kerala	1,000
J. Macwan	Mumbai	10,000	B. Sheth	Mumbai	2,000	E. Daniel	Mumbai	1,000
Jose K.V.	Kerala	10,000	C. Engles	Punjab	2,000	E. Patrao	Navi Mumbai	1,000
Melini	Mumbai	10,000	D. Alphonso	Mumbai	2,000	E. Pereira	Mumbai	1,000
M. Muckaden	Mumbai	10,000	D. Ferreira	Mumbai	2,000	F. Dhairia	USA	1,000
N. Naik	Palghar	10,000	D. Mohan	USA	2,000	G. Arputharaj	Tamil Nadu	1,000
N. Raj	Navi Mumbai	10,000	Joe F.	Mumbai	2,000	G. D'Souza	Thane	1,000
Omega Wine Mart	Mumbai	10,000	J. Fernandes	Mumbai	2,000	G. Rajesh	Ahmednagar	1,000
S. Monteiro	Mumbai	10,000	K. Sangani	Mumbai	2,000	G. Thakker	Mumbai	1,000
L. Christian	Gujarat	8,500	M. F. D'Souza	Mumbai	2,000	J. Chackochen	Kerala	1,000
D. Rao	Mumbai	6,000	M. Kulkarni	Ahmednagar	2,000	J. D'Souza	Mumbai	1,000
J. Dionatius	Kerala	6,000	M. Mathai	Kerala	2,000	J. Joe	Tamil Nadu	1,000
S. Carvalho	Mumbai	6,000	N. Asher	Mumbai	2,000	J. Saldanha	Mumbai	1,000
N. Kanga	Mumbai	5,500	N. Gandhi	Mumbai	2,000	K. Kansara	Mumbai	1,000
N. Mehta	Mumbai	5,101	P. D'Costa	Palghar	2,000	K. Surti	Mumbai	1,000
M. Lalan	Mumbai	5,001	P. Hendricks	Tamil Nadu	2,000	L. Dias	Vasai	1,000
A. Fernandes	Mumbai	5,000	R. Bomanji	Mumbai	2,000	L. Pereira	Palghar	1,000
A. Rao	Mumbai	5,000	S. Driver	Gujarat	2,000	M. Antony	Kerala	1,000
Jacob/ Lazzarus	Mumbai	5,000	S. Fernandes	Mumbai	2,000	M. Cardozo	Navi Mumbai	1,000
C. Fobler	Canada	5,000	S. Manjrekar	Mumbai	2,000	M. D'Souza	Mumbai	1,000
C. Vinjor	Ahmednagar	5,000	S. Tribhuvan	Pune	2,000	M. Joseph	Pune	1,000
G. Gala	Thane	5,000	V. Jani	Mumbai	2,000	M. Panchal	Mumbai	1,000
J. D' Mello	Vasai	5,000	V. Patel	Thane	2,000	M. Rodricks	Mumbai	1,000
J. Matthew	Mumbai	5,000	R. Francis	Kerala	2,000	M. Soares	Navi Mumbai	1,000
J. Puthur	Kerala	5,000	R. Johnson	Kerala	1,600	P. D'Silva	Vasai	1,000
M. Fernandes	Mumbai	5,000	A. Kuttikadan	Thane	1,500	P. Menezes	Mumbai	1,000
P. Falcao	Vasai	5,000	D. Baranwal	Mumbai	1,500	R. Makwana	Gujarat	1,000
Pathare & Fly	Mumbai	5,000	Irudayaraj M.	Tamil Nadu	1,500	R. Parge	Pune	1,000
R. Parikh	Mumbai	5,000	K. Mehta	Mumbai	1,500	R. Parmar	Gujarat	1,000
S. Barboza	Vasai	5,000	R. Khristi	Gujarat	1,500	S. Joseph	Kerala	1,000
S. Dabhi	Gujarat	5,000	T. Davar	Pune	1,500	S. D'Mello	Vasai	1,000
S. Fernandes	Goa	5,000	M. Lam	Mumbai	1,400	Sharon	Mumbai	1,000
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	5,000	Sonya/Wilma	Mumbai	1,100	S. D'Souza	Mumbai	1,000
T. Devsi	Thane	5,000	J. Paulbhai	Gujarat	1,011	S. Fernandes	Vasai	1,000
Y. Aranha	Mumbai	5,000	F. Rebeiro & Fly	Gujarat	1,001	S. Varghese	Kerala	1,000
Yogita/Jerson	Mumbai	5,000	K. Patil	Thane	1,001	S. Waghmare	Mumbai	1,000
Z. D'Silva	Vasai	5,000	M. Chesson	Mumbai	1,001	T. Kotak	Gujarat	1,000
B. Antony	Kerala	4,000	Sawant/Revankar	Mumbai	1,001	U. Kanani	Mumbai	1,000
C. Alvares	Mumbai	4,000	A. D'Sa	Palghar	1,000	V. Nunes	Vasai	1,000
F. Solanki	Palghar	4,000	A. Gonsalves	Vasai	1,000	Victory Dev.	Mumbai	1,000
H. Kenny	Mumbai	4,000	A. Jadhav	Kerala	1,000	R. Zacharius	UAE	500

## **Ven. Fr. Agnelo's 95th Death Anniversary Solemn Concelebrated Mass at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra, Mumbai**



*A prayer dance performance by children of Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Ambernath.*



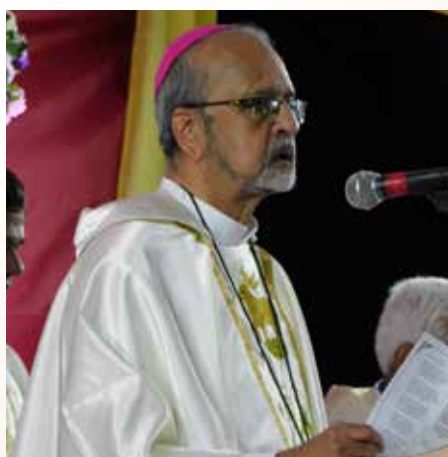
*An enthralling cultural performance by children of Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Ambernath.*



*Most Rev. Allwyn D'Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay, celebrating the Eucharist.*



*Main Celebrant Bishop Allwyn D'Silva extolling the virtues of Ven. Fr. Agnelo D'Souza.*



*Bishop Allwyn D'Silva delivering his Homily.*

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Well-Wishers*

*A Blessed Christmas &  
A Happy New Year!*



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