

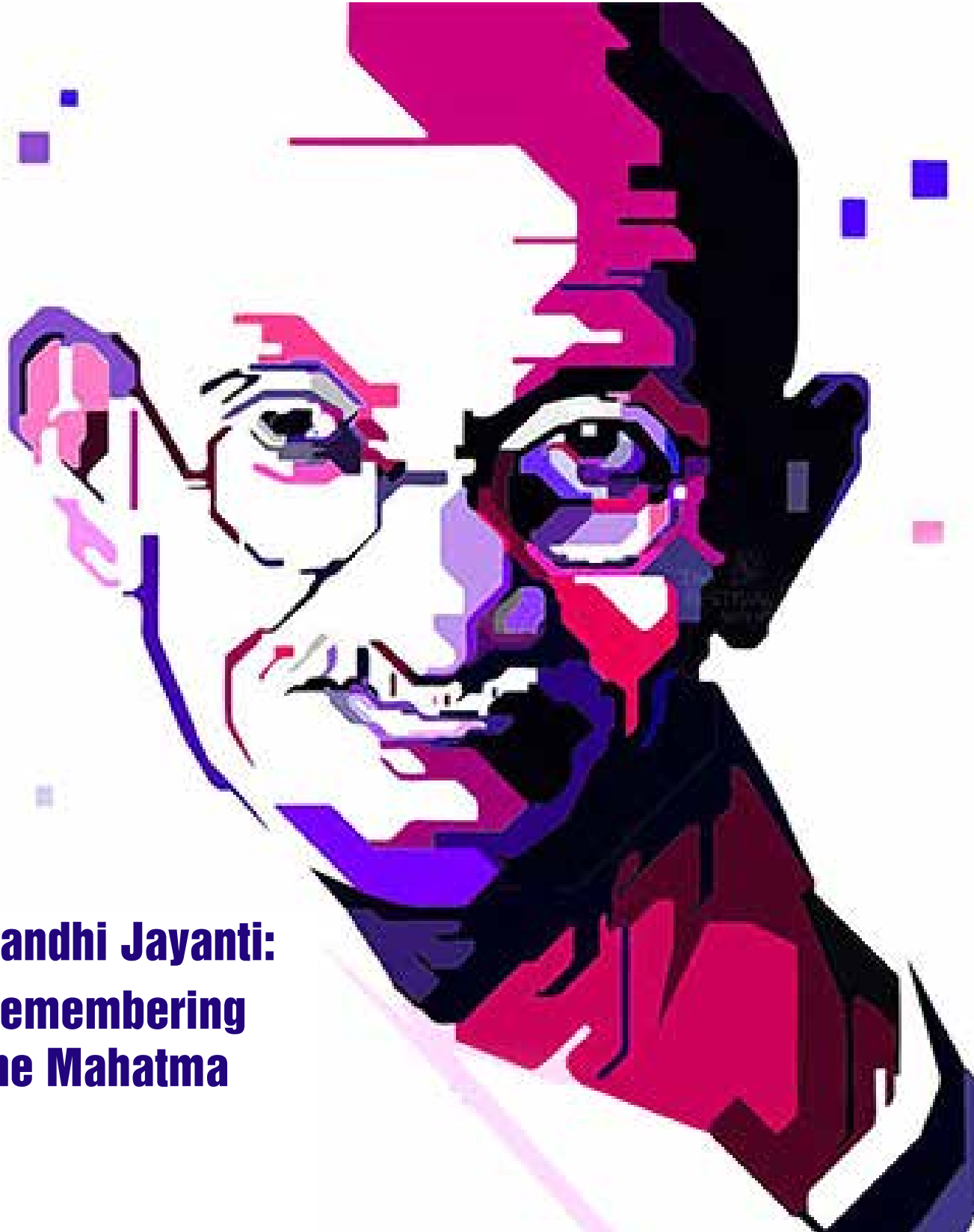


FR

October 2022

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS



**Gandhi Jayanti:
Remembering
the Mahatma**

FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

October 2022

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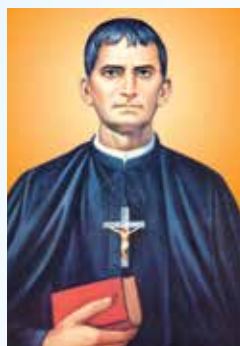
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VEN. FR. AGNELO'S 95th DEATH ANNIVERSARY Sunday, 20th November 2022

PROGRAMME

SPECIAL NOVENA SERVICES From 11th to 19th November 2022

Everyday

Morning: 7.00 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, 13th November, Masses and Novena Services will be held as on Normal Sundays.

**20th November (Sunday) : 95th Death Anniversary
of Venerable Fr. Agnelo**

**Morning : Mass followed by Novena Prayers at 7.00
a.m. (English), 8.00 a.m. (Konkani), 9.30 a.m.
(English) & 11.30 a.m. (Tamil)**

**Evening : A Solemn Concelebrated Mass will be held at
6.00 p.m. (English) in the Ashram Compound.**

Main Celebrant

**Most. Rev. Allwyn D'Silva,
Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay, will
be the**

Main Celebrant on 20th November 2022.



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 - 400050

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

The Light Within ...

We have always considered light and heat as concomitant to one another or wherever there is light we assume heat exists, although we may not always be right about it. Luminescence is **spontaneous emission of light by a substance not resulting from heat**; or “cold light”. It is thus a form of cold-body radiation. It can be caused by chemical reactions, electrical energy, subatomic motions or stress on a crystal.

There is however another type of light which neither generates heat nor is it connected and governed by the laws of Physics, Chemistry or Biology. There is a beautiful description of an individual who had lost everything that he could call his own, and had even lost the ability to hope that things would change for the better, when he writes: “I saw days when there was no sun, I walked along the streets where there was no one, and all around me there were carcasses of men and material, weapons of war that man considered invincible, and then I almost thought there would never be another dawn ...” This individual’s description is a cryptic reminder of the situations that people can be in, and at some stage of the pandemic, many waited for the knock at their door, beckoning them to come to a place from where there would be no return.

While this happened, thousands more defied the circumstances that surrounded them as a cloud, our doctors, nurses, other medical staff, sanitation workers, drivers and transporters, ordinary people, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, children and elderly, teachers and learners, each one of them could draw strength and inspiration from another INNER LIGHT - a light does not go off or dims, the light that God has placed

in each human heart, the light of God’s image and goodness.

Often times, when we are crushed by the force of circumstances of personal or financial loss, we lose sight of the power within us, that shows us another way, the light that shines even in the midst of darkness. Even when we are aware of that light or power within us, we tend to dismiss it, as too far to reach or too difficult to access – but that is precisely the difference between

defeat and triumph! The triumph of the human spirit is precisely our attempt to see that ‘light’ where there is apparently none, the courage to tap that ‘power’ when we think we are too weak to stand up and walk ahead – because that is the **power within, the bright shining light within.**

Let never trouble or distress pull you down, because the perception of the magnitude of your pain and distress, your loss or your challenge - is directly connected to your belief in yourself, in the assurance you have been given, that the Almighty, the Power you worship in our heart, never deserts you to your fate.

Rise and Shine because the Light Within and Power inside you are a true proof of God’s constant care and protection. Learn to relish that treasure within, that speaks to you softly and gently and practice the fine art of silence and listening to yourself. Your true **luminescence** has been endowed to you, the day you are born! Learn to keep that treasure!



-Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho

Mahatma Gandhi and Jesus Christ

-Fr. Fio Mascarenhas SJ

Mahatma Gandhi can be truly called a disciple of Jesus Christ. Though not a baptised Christian, in practice he followed Jesus' main teachings in an extraordinary way, and finally gave his life for the sake of "righteousness" (Matt 5:10). Most of the seven other Beatitudes declared by Jesus were also applicable in his personal life.

According to the book *Gandhi, the Man*, authored by Mrs. Millie Polak (she and her husband were part of Gandhi's household in South Africa), Mr. Gandhi "frequently quoted the sayings and teachings of Jesus. The lesson of the 'Sermon on the Mount' seemed to be constantly in his mind, and was a source of guidance and inspiration to him. There was a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ that adorned the wall over his desk. There was no picture of the Buddha or of Krishna in the office, and only three other pictures were to be seen on the walls (of famous social reformers of the time). But in the centre of his office room was the face of Christ."

Gandhi himself wrote an article about **"Jesus: the man who belongs to the whole world,"** in which he wrote: *"Although a great part of my life has been devoted to the study of religion and to discussion with religious leaders of all faiths, I know that I cannot avoid writing about the figure of Jesus and trying to explain what significance and meaning he has had for me... I believe that Jesus himself, if he lived among men today, would bless the lives of many who perhaps had never heard his name, if they live in accordance with the virtues that his life so imperishably illustrated, the virtues of unselfishness and loving kindness toward one's fellow men. It is this, I think, that above all was important to him, just as it is written in the great book of Christianity – 'Not he who cries out Lord, Lord, but he who does his will.'"*

"What, then, has Jesus meant to me? To me he is a great world teacher. To his followers, he was and is the only-begotten Son of God. Whether or not I accept this, does he affect my life the less? Is all the grandeur of his teaching thus automatically barred from me? I cannot believe so. The adjective 'begotten' has a meaning for me that I like to think is deeper and possibly grander than its literal one. To my mind it implies spiritual birth. My interpretation, in other words, is that in his own life Jesus stood nearest to God. And it is in this sense that I look upon him as the Son of God..."

"I refuse to believe that there were any who did not profit by his example and by his atoning for their sins, whether or not they consciously realised it. The lives of all were to some degree, great or small, changed and benefited by his presence, his actions, and the words of his voice... I interpret the miracles of Jesus not in a literal sense, which seems to me unimportant, but as the dramatic and unforgettable expression of this impulse, as the most vivid lesson possible to impart – not to just pass by the sick and suffering, not to judge those who, in the world's eyes, have sinned, but to forgive them and thus help them to enter a new and better life... because there was such a figure as that of Jesus, I am hopeful and confident of the future. And it is because his life has this significance and meaning for me that I do not regard him as belonging to Christianity alone, but rather to the whole world, to all its peoples, no matter under what name they worship" (The Modern Review, October 1941).

The Spirit-inspired documents of the Second Vatican Council can help us today to see Gandhi as a Spirit-filled disciple of Jesus: "(Jesus' Paschal Mystery) applies not to Christians only but to all men and women of goodwill in whose hearts grace is active invisibly. For since Christ died for all, and all men and women are in fact called to one and the same destiny, which is divine, we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being made partners, **in a way known to God**, in the paschal mystery" (Gaudium et Spes, n.22).

St. Pope John Paul II developed this theme in his encyclical on missionary work (Redemptoris Missio, 1990), explaining that the gift of salvation cannot be limited *"to those who explicitly believe in Christ and have entered the Church. **Since salvation is offered to all, it must be made concretely available to all... (But) many people do not have the opportunity to come to know or to accept the Gospel revelation, or to enter the Church. The social and cultural conditions in which they live do not permit this, and frequently they have been brought up in other religious traditions**" (n.10).*

For those people who, through no fault of their own, do not get baptised as Christians, the divine plan has provided a way of salvation (see Vatican II, Ad Gentes, n.7). St. John Paul II explained on

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Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

- Ibonio D'Souza

This feast actually commemorates the victory in one of the greatest naval battles fought on 7th October, 1571, in Lepanto, off the western coast of Greece, between the Catholic Holy League, and the Turkish forces which had, ultimately threatened the future of the Christian Faith in Europe. In other words, truth and our civilisation, was under threat, and it needed to be defended. So, to whom do we turn if not God? Hence the Dominican pope at the time, Saint Pius V, led processions in Rome, and asked the Christian people to pray the Rosary, that beautiful and distinctive Dominican prayer that God gave to the Church.

The Holy Rosary (Latin: *rosarium*, in the sense of “crown of roses” or “garland of roses”), refers to a set of prayers used in the Catholic Church, and to the physical string of knots or beads used to count the component prayers. The prayers that compose the Rosary are arranged in sets of ten Hail Marys, called “decades”. Each decade is preceded by one Lord’s Prayer (“Our Father”), and traditionally followed by one Glory Be. Rosary prayer beads are an aid for saying these prayers in their proper sequence. Usually, five decades are recited in a session. Each decade provides an opportunity to meditate on one of the Mysteries of the Rosary, which recalls events in the lives of Jesus Christ and his mother Mary.

Over more than four centuries, several popes have promoted the rosary as part of the veneration of Mary in the Catholic Church, and consisting essentially in meditation on the life of Christ. The rosary also represents the Catholic emphasis on “participation in the life of Mary, whose focus was Christ, and the Mariological theme “to Christ through Mary.”

Saints and popes have emphasised the meditative and contemplative elements of the rosary and provided specific teachings for how the rosary should be prayed, for instance the need for “focus”,

“respect”, “reverence” and “purity of intention” during rosary recitations and contemplations. Scriptural meditations concerning the rosary are based on the Christian tradition of *Lectio Divina* (“divine reading”) as a way of using the Gospel to start a conversation between the person and Christ. Padre Pio, a rosary devotee, said: “Through the study of books one seeks God; but by meditation one finds him.”

The purpose of the rosary is to help us meditate on the great mysteries of our salvation. Pope Pius XII called it a compendium of the Gospel. The main focus is on Jesus - his birth, life, death and resurrection. The Our Father reminds us that Jesus’ Father is the initiator of salvation. The Hail Mary reminds us to join with Mary in contemplating these mysteries. They also make us aware that Mary was and is intimately joined with her Son in all the mysteries of his earthly and heavenly existence. The Glory Be reminds us that the purpose of all life is the glory of the holy trinity.

As in 1571, truth and our civilisation are under threat, and we Christians have been called to defend the truth, to witness to the beauty and goodness of Faith in Jesus Christ, the universal Saviour, and to love our neighbours and contemporaries. And love does not ever mean tolerating error, nor does love remain silent in the face of evil done. As St. Catherine of Siena said: “We have had enough of exhortations to be silent! Cry out with a hundred thousand tongues. I see that the world is rotten because of silence.”

Hence, we must cry out, we must speak, and for many of us, this begins with us - a hundred thousand tongues - crying out the Hail Marys of the Holy Rosary. Daily, pray the Rosary, pray it deliberately and well, and so let it transform your hearts and your lives! It will, with time, give you fresh courage to preach the Gospel for the

Rosary is nothing less than a meditation on the Gospel, with Mary. As Pope St. John Paul II said, “With the Rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and are lead to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love.” If we do this every day, how can we not turn away from the ugliness of sin, the silliness of our errors, and embrace instead the beauty and truth that is Jesus Christ?

The Rosary, therefore, gives us victory over the most significant battle of all. Not the battle at Lepanto in 1571, which for so many of us can be just ancient history, but, rather the battle that we each undertake daily against sin, against our weaknesses and addictions, against lies, fake news, and confusion that fills our minds in the 21st century. The Holy Rosary focuses the mind on Jesus Christ

who alone can save us, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and who alone is the victorious Conqueror over sin and all Satan’s assaults and lies. Together with Mary, who also pondered the mysteries of salvation in her immaculate heart, we are led to the one victory that matters, the victory over sin. Pope Leo XIII said: “The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying.”

With such a great resource at hand, only the most foolish and indifferent of people would fail to take up the Rosary and use it! So, let us pick up the Rosary and pray it daily: our future literally depends on what we do with it today!

Mahatma Gandhi and Jesus Christ - Contd. from pg. 4

another occasion that “the condition ‘through no fault of their own’ cannot be verified nor weighed by human evaluation, but must be left to the divine judgement alone... **We have not been given the possibility to discern the mystery of God’s action in minds and hearts, in order to assess the power of Christ’s grace, as he takes possession, in life and death, of all that ‘the Father gives him,’ and which he himself proclaims (Jn.6:39) he does not want to ‘lose’.**” (*L’Osservatore Romano*, 7 June 1995, p.11, English edition).

Likewise, St. John Paul II has pointed out what the real action of the Holy Spirit is in every human heart: “The Church is supremely aware of the reality of the inner man, of what is deepest and incorruptible. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, this inner ‘spiritual’ man matures and grows strong ...**The hidden breath of the Divine Spirit enables the human spirit to open in its turn before the saving and sanctifying self-opening to God.** Through the gift of grace which comes from the Holy Spirit, man enters a ‘new life,’ ‘he lives according to the

Spirit’ ...**The Triune God, giving himself in the Holy Spirit as gift to man, transforms the human world from within, from inside hearts and minds ...and enables man ever more fully to find himself through a sincere gift of self**” (*DeV*, n.58f).

Millions of people, Christians as well as people of other faiths, are experiencing today this action of the Spirit “transforming the human world from within” and leading them to make a “sincere gift of self” to God and to “neighbour.”

So, let us end this short article by reminding ourselves of another of St John Paul II’s powerful declarations: “The Holy Spirit’s presence and activity affect not only individuals but also society and history, peoples, cultures **and religions. Indeed, the Spirit is at the origin of the noble ideals and undertakings which benefit humanity on its journey through history**” (RM, n.28).

On Gandhi Jayanti, then, let us thank God that the “Father of our Nation” was such a great follower of Jesus Christ!

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

Call to Imitate Christ

-Fr. Antony Jerald

N*ature is always thankful to the one who cares for it. Poor are always thankful to the one who loves them.*

Nature and Poor are thankful to our **Saint Francis of Assisi** who loved and lived for the betterment of both. He is a model for us and gave up everything for the sake of the one who called him for the special purpose. He called everyone as brothers and sisters in order to show that we are created by God the Father. His way of life is prefigured by the two great personalities; they are, 'Jesus', and 'St. Paul'.

While St. Paul was travelling towards Damascus, he heard the call of Jesus to follow him "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? ... I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting". Likewise, St. Francis of Assisi received the call from Jesus while he was travelling to Apulia for the war. "Go, Francis and repair my house which as you see, is well-nigh in ruins." St. Paul was praying and preparing to know the will of God with the help of Ananias.

Saint Francis of Assisi too prayed and embraced solitude to know the will of God. It made him to be a best creation of God with real true value. St. Paul travelled throughout the world to proclaim the Gospel values. St. Francis of Assisi proclaimed the word of God not only to humanity but to the animals too since they are also created by God. St. Paul's way of life converted the life of many people towards the love of Jesus. St. Francis of Assisi's lifestyle made more than 5000 people to follow him within a year.

The poor man who loved nature often called himself the mirror of Christ because he was just like another Christ living among us. Jesus' way of teaching and the imitation of His life were perfectly done by St. Francis of Assisi. The value for a modern ecological consciousness is defensible but Assisi is our forerunner in it. In Francis' personification of nature and his mystical experiences of nature, lie an intuitive sense of interconnectedness and interdependence of being fully part of the natural web of life.

St. Francis can provide a sound moral attitude towards caring in the natural world. By following

the way of blessed Francis, we can attain eternal life. Jesus humbled himself to take the form of man to fulfil the will of God the Father. St. Francis



of Assisi humbled himself knowing the value and the presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist and sacrificed his life with his powerful witness. Jesus preached and compared the kingdom of Heaven with Nature. St. Francis of Assisi lived his life with nature by calling brothers and sisters to show the creator's love. Jesus bore the pain of the cross to redeem us from sin.

St. Francis of Assisi bore the pain of the stigmata (wounds of Jesus) to witness Christ's presence and his

suffering on earth. Jesus had compassion towards the lepers and healed them. St. Francis of Assisi too had compassion towards lepers and kissed the hand to reveal the love of God. St. Francis of Assisi approximates the life of Christ more than any other person lived on the earth. As St. John expressed during the last supper: "Lord, we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way?" Jesus answers him with the awesome reply "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn 14: 5-6). For this St. Francis of Assisi was truly another Christ by the way of his life and showed the way to find Jesus in nature. As the moon is the mirror of the sun, St. Francis of Assisi is the mirror of Jesus Christ.

So dear brothers and sisters, as we read in Philippians 2:8 'Poverty, obedience, prayer and mortifications were all done for the love of a God who humbled Himself to share in our humanity'. The love is continually showered on us no matter who we are. St. Francis of Assisi has been called "a second Christ" and the "mirror of Christ." It is because of the imitation of Christ in his life. St. Francis of Assisi imitated Jesus perfectly and preached repentance and peace which paved the way for several young men to leave their families and possessions to join Francis. As we are expecting the second coming of Jesus, receiving the love of God everyday through the Holy Eucharist, let us be like St. Paul and St. Francis of Assisi to imitate Jesus in us.

International Internet Day

-Christine D'Sylva

"The internet is becoming the town square for the global village of tomorrow." - Bill Gates

Many of us consider the internet as something we find indispensable. It is probably one of the most important inventions of the modern century. Therefore unsurprisingly, the International Internet Day is celebrated on 29th October.

With technological advancement, the internet seems to be something we cannot imagine doing without. It is estimated on an average internet users spend 6 hours and 42 minutes each day. Google is the most visited website.

Let's examine the positive and negative features of this important advancement.

First, we must remember that the internet was started in the 1960s as a way for government researchers to share information. Computers in those days were large and immobile. To use the internet one had to travel to the site of the computer or have magnetic tapes sent through the conventional postal system.

Another catalyst was the heating up of the Cold War. The Soviet Unions launched the Sputnik satellite and this spurred the US Department to consider ways information could be disseminated. This ultimately led to the formation of the ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network) and this network ultimately evolved into what we know as the internet.

Our planet has become internet dependent due to its vast advantages. It is estimated that over 4.5 billion people use the internet. What is most striking about it is that it strips away geographical barriers. Suddenly the world has shrunk for communication has improved incredibly drastically.

Families and friends in various parts of the world can communicate easily through SKYPE which is like a video call. We have e-mails, WhatsApp too to communicate with just about anybody whether we live in India and they live in a tiny island far away.

The internet functions as an encyclopaedia that grants us access to every topic under the sun. You just have to use the search engine and find whatever you are looking for. Students find this very helpful for with internet access they can research more on the study topics.

Online banking, online shopping is an advantage everyone loves. This E-commerce facility helps someone in India, for example, to shop anywhere in the world.

Social websites like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, help people to connect with each other through these social platforms. It is also of entertainment value.

Many educational facilities have online education and many people now work from home using their computers. Advertising is made easy for companies and people to advertise their products that reach worldwide. The internet helps people to do armchair travelling and gives them access to viewing the world onscreen. Our world is now like a global village connecting the biggest nations to the smallest ones easily.

So we can see that the internet has so many uses. It seems to make life simpler and interesting. Yet, oddly the internet has given rise to many problems too.

Internet addiction is detrimental for mental health. Being addicted to anything is bad and many people become addicted to the internet. It is not unusual for people to treat their mobiles as a best friend and actually sleep with their phones close to them. They take their mobiles everywhere since they are unable to do without it.

Cybercrime is a serious problem. Hackers program a virus that gets into the computer and ruins personal data. User's personal information like name, address, master card, bank details and other information are used by the culprits and this leads to economic loss.

More and more people are becoming alienated spending too much time online. There is

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GREATER NOIDA

Three budding scientists of Father Agnel School, Greater Noida, win 'Kaun Banega Robogenius' competition

Three budding scientists of **Father Agnel School**, Greater Noida, namely, **Divyansh Bahukandi, Ayushman and Kartik** added another feather to the crown of the school by securing the first place in the '**Kaun Banega Robogenius**' competition which was held at the **Expo Mart**, Greater Noida on 27th August, 2022. The participants were taken to '**Khilona Exhibition**' where the competition was to be conducted. The instructors demonstrated to the participants how to use various components in robotics and further inspired them with the idea of Coding. Each team consisted of three students and 15 to 20 minutes were allowed to



The team from Father Agnel School, Greater Noida, that won the 'Kaun Banega Robogenius' competition.

complete the project in time. The assigned task was that the robot had to hit the target and then get back to square one within the stipulated time. Our team was in exultation as the robot hit the target and then returned to its starting point

while other groups couldn't even hit the target. Having won the competition, the Agnelites later proudly narrated the saga of victory to the team of TEN News Channel.

In the Expo Mart, various toys were also on display that attracted the young learners' attention. It was a memorable day

which paved way for the young scientists to grow, leaving an indelible impression in their minds.

AMBERNATH

Building a New Generation of Leaders

In a solemn ceremony, the new cabinet of School Leaders of **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School** and Jr. College, Ambarnath was invested with their office and responsibilities.

The Investiture Ceremony was held on 27th August 2022. **Fr. Trevor Pereira** of Fr. Agnel Ashram and Principal of Fr. Agnel Technical School, Bandra, was the **Chief Guest**. He introduced the new Cabinet Ministers and led the oath-taking.

A total of 24 students were sworn in – the Head Boy, Asst. Head Boy, Head Girl and Asst. Head Girl, the Captains and Vice Captains of the Red, Blue, Green and Gold houses respectively and the Leaders of Sports, Discipline and Dramatics departments for each of the four houses.

The impeccable March Past of the Cabinet to match the rhythmic drum beats stole the hearts of one and all.



The Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. Trevor Pereira (centre) seen with the new cabinet ministers, school management and teachers.

The Cabinet Ministers in their crisp uniforms and smart blazers received their appointment to take charge of their duties with the blessings of the school management, teachers and parents.

AITD student secures third place at Triathlon National Championship 2022

Goa's **Natasha** from **Agnel Institute of Technology and Design, Assagao**, did Goa proud at the recently concluded **Triathlon National Championship at Udaipur**. Natasha participated in the Sprint Distance Triathlon consisting of a 750 m swim in the Fateh Sagar Lake, 20 km bike race and 5 km run. She finished in a time of 1 hour, 25 min securing third position in her category.



Natasha from Agnel Institute of Technology and Design, Assagao, did Goa proud.

For the coaches involved with the team, it was about hard work and determination that paid off. Agnelo De Sa who was involved in training the athletes in running and cycling said the performance was very good and they had trained every morning and evening for two hours. Agnelo said “The athletes have to go to college, so we had to plan accordingly. Speaking of Natasha, she can get better but she will have to learn to juggle her life in college and sport.”

BANDRA

Gift Garden at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra receives overwhelming response

During the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary in September, devotees thronged Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra Bandstand, after visiting the Mount Mary shrine. The Balbhavan boys had put up games and food



stalls which were well patronised. The fun games and rides left children and their parents happy.

A special feature of the Gift Garden was beautifully handcrafted items by the talented boys



such as paintings, key chains and night lamps with gel wax candles on display. The devotees praised the efforts of the Balbhavan boys. May Mother Mary bless you and your family always.

Agera - The Thanksgiving Festival

Agera is a thanksgiving harvest festival celebrated by the Roman Catholic community of Mumbai, primarily the East Indians. This traditional harvest festival is held in the beginning of October, when the grain is ready for harvesting, and lasts for five days.

This Agera Harvest Festival was celebrated by East Indian families all over Mumbai, Vasai, Ghas, Nallasopara, Virar, Boisar and Dahanu (Mumbai and now Extended Mumbai). This festival would commence with the priest in every Parish community, going down to the fields, to bless the newly harvested crop and giving thanks to God, along with the farmers and villagers.

After coming together in prayer, the community would celebrate with delicious food, singing and dance.



The word Agera is derived from the Latin words “Ager” which means field or farm, and “Agricola” which means Farmer. Agera falls on the first Sunday of October. It is normally called the Harvest Festival where farmers cut their crop, and offer the “first fruits” to God (Deut.26:1-14). By giving the “first-fruits” as an offering to God, the Israelites acknowledged that all the harvest

- in fact, everything they had - came from God and belonged to Him.

The offering of ‘first-fruits’ was likewise an expression of faith that, something else — the harvest of the rest of the crop — would come later. ‘First-Fruits’ is a religious offering of the first agricultural produce of the harvest. In classical Greek, Roman, and Hebrew religions, the ‘first-fruits’ were given to priests as an offering to deity. The symbolic meaning of harvest in the Scripture encompasses two main areas: God’s provision for us and God’s blessing for others (Ezek. 44:30).

While we celebrate a harvest season just once a year, we experience the spirit of harvest all the time. What is harvesting in the Church? It is a day on which many churches show solidarity with those without food, and distribute the harvest donations they have collected among



charitable organisations. The harvest festival is one of the oldest holidays still celebrated today, in some parts of the world, even India. It is a day on which rural churches in particular are well attended.

So, what is ‘first-fruits’ in the Bible? The ‘early-yield’ may be mentioned when pastors talk about ‘generosity.’ “When you come into the land which I give you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the ‘first-fruits’ of your harvest to the priest” (Leviticus 23:10).

The concept of ‘first-fruits’ is rooted in ancient biblical times, when people lived in an agrarian society. Harvest time was significant because of the hard work, the farmers had poured into their crops all year, began to pay off. They were literally ‘reaping what they sowed.’

God called his people to bring the first yield — the ‘first-fruits’ — from their harvest to him as an offering. This was to demonstrate the Israelites’ obedience and reverence for God. It also showed that they trusted God to provide enough crops to feed their family.

Back then, there were plenty of rules associated with making first ‘fruit-sacrifices.’ They had to be brought to the temple priests. No other crops



could be harvested until the ‘first- fruits’ were presented. The Hebrew word for ‘first-fruits’ is *bikkurim* — literally translated as “promise to come.” The Israelites saw these ‘first-fruits’ as an investment into their future. God told them that if they brought their first fruits to him, he would bless all that came afterward.

Today, we no longer live in an agrarian-based society. Most people reading this write-up, are most probably not farmers. You likely don’t worry about harvest time, because you are unable to give away the first yield of your crops. But the idea of ‘first-fruits’ is still relevant — it just takes on a new meaning for us.

“Honour the Lord with your wealth - the ‘first-fruits’ of all your crops” (Proverbs 3:9).

We see the term ‘first-fruits’ initially mentioned in the book of Exodus, when Moses is leading God’s people out of captivity in Egypt (Exodus 1:1-13:16). God instructed the Israelites to ‘give up the first of their crops,’ so that, they could understand the value of God’s blessings.

Through the first five books of the Bible, Moses brings up the idea thirteen times. That’s because it was an essential concept for his people to understand. ‘First-fruits’ is mentioned throughout the Old Testament, and it’s even referred to in the New Testament books.

In the New Testament, the term ‘first fruits’ takes on a symbolic meaning. In 1 Corinthians 15:20, Paul mentions Christ as the “‘first-fruits’ of those who have passed away.” Jesus was God’s ‘first-fruits’ — his one and only son, and the best that humanity had to offer. God gave Jesus, who was raised from the dead, up for us, in the same way that we sacrifice the best we have, for him.

‘First-fruits’ is a religious offering of the first agricultural produce of the harvest. In classical Greek, Roman, and Hebrew religions, the ‘first-fruits’ were given to priests as an offering to the deity/God. In classical Athens, the ‘first fruits’ were called an offering of “*aparche*”.



In fact, different cultures in India, celebrate the harvest festival with colour and festivity, in gratitude to our Creator-God for a glorious reaping of grain, especially rice.

Indeed, “Agera,” is a traditional East Indian farmer’s celebration of a ‘golden harvest,’ as against, “Thanksgiving,” the Modern-Day Version – which is a Feast for everyone in the Catholic Church.

Agera, the feast of Thanksgiving, the feast of blessing of the new Corn produced in our fields, is one of the most-awaited feast by all the East Indians. Once upon a time this feast was celebrated with much pomp and splendour all over the Archdiocese of Bombay. However, most of the fields have now disappeared in the concrete jungle that, Mumbai has been turned into, and along with the fields, we have lost our sense and joy of celebrating this feast.

In days gone by, our Parishes used to celebrate Agera on different Sundays. However, in the Post-Modern era, the Archdiocese of Mumbai has assigned the first Sunday in October as Thanksgiving Sunday.

Saints Simon & Jude - Evangelizers & Martyrs

-Leon Bent

October 28, is the feast day of Saints Simon and Jude (also known as Thaddeus). Both apostles, Simon can be identified by his attribute of the saw, since he was supposedly cut to pieces; and Jude, by his club or carpenter's rule. St. Simon is the patron saint of leather tanners; Jude, of desperate cases and lost causes.

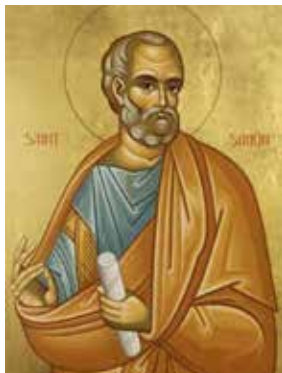
Simon the Zealot (Acts 1:13, Luke 6:15) or Simon the Canaanite (Matthew 10:4, Mark 3:18), was one of the most obscure person among the apostles of Jesus.

The name Simon occurs in all of the Synoptic Gospels and the Book of Acts each time there is a list of apostles, without further details:

The zealot element in the original apostle group that was disguised and overwritten to make it support the assimilative Pauline Christianity of the Gentiles, are more controversial. John P. Meier points out that the term "Zealot" is a mistranslation and in the context of the Gospels means "zealous" or "religious" (in this case, for keeping the Law of Moses).

The Catholic Encyclopaedia suggests that Simon the Zealot may be the same person as Simeon of Jerusalem or Simon the brother of Jesus or both. He would then be the cousin of Jesus or a son of Joseph from a previous marriage. Another tradition holds that this is the Simeon of Jerusalem who became the second bishop of Jerusalem, although he was born in Galilee.

In the apocryphal Arabic Infancy Gospel, a fact related to this apostle is mentioned. A boy named Simon is bitten by a snake in his hand; he is healed by Jesus, who told the child "you shall be my disciple". The mention ends with the phrase "this is Simon the Canaanite, of whom mention is made in the Gospel."



Simon born in Cana of Galilee who for his fervent affection for his Master and great zeal that he showed by all means to the Gospel, was surnamed Zealots, having received the Holy Ghost from above, travelled through Egypt, and Africa, then through Mauretania and all Libya, preaching the Gospel. And the same doctrine he taught to the Occidental Sea, and the Isles called Britannia (prevalent Latin name for the island of Great Britain).

Another tradition, doubtless inspired by his title "the Zealot", states that he was involved in the First Jewish–Roman War (66–73 AD).

In art, Simon has the identifying attribute of a saw because he was traditionally martyred by being sawn in half.

Simon, like the other Apostles, is regarded as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Churches, the Oriental Orthodox Churches, the Eastern Catholic Churches, the churches of the Anglican Communion and the Lutheran Church. Simon is remembered (with Jude) in the Church of England with a Festival on 28 October.

Jude was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus according to the New Testament. He is generally identified with Thaddeus, and is also variously called Judas Thaddaeus, Jude Thaddaeus, Jude of James, or Lebbaeus. He is one of the original Twelve Apostles of Jesus, and is the reputed author of the canonical Letter of Jude that warns against the licentious and blasphemous heretics.

Among some Roman Catholics, Saint Jude is venerated as the "Patron Saint of Hopeless Causes". This practice is said to stem from the belief that few Christians invoked him for misplaced fear of praying to Christ's betrayer, Judas Iscariot, because of their similar names.



Aside from being the patron saint of lost causes, St. Jude is a symbol of choosing faith when all seems lost. He is a testament to standing firm in religious truth in the face of an ever uncertain and challenging world.

Pray to Saint Jude Thaddeus for Urgent Financial Help – (Christian Catholic Media). St. Jude is the patron saint of desperate cases and lost causes because he was known for taking on any “lost cause” in order to demonstrate and share his trust in God.

Images of St. Jude often include a flame around his head, which represent his presence at Pentecost, when he accepted the Holy Spirit alongside the other apostles. Another attribute is St. Jude holding an image of Christ, in the Image of Edessa.

Sometimes he can also be seen holding a carpenter’s ruler or is depicted with a scroll or book, the Epistle of Jude.

Biblical scholars agree St. Jude was a son of Cleophas and his mother Mary was the Virgin Mary’s cousin. Ancient writers tell us that he preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Libya. According to Eusebius, he returned to Jerusalem in the year 62, and assisted at the election of his brother, St. Simeon, as Bishop of Jerusalem.

Saint Jude is not the same person as Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Our Lord and despaired because of his great sin and lack of trust in God’s mercy.

Jude was the one who asked Jesus at the Last Supper why He would not manifest Himself to the whole world after His resurrection. Little else is known of his life. Legend claims that he visited Beirut and Edessa and could have been martyred with St. Simon in Persia.

He is an author of an epistle (letter) to the Churches of the East, particularly the Jewish converts, directed against the heresies of the Simonians, Nicolaites, and Gnostics. He is the reputed author of the canonical “Letter of Jude” that, warns against the licentious and blasphemous heretics. The devotion to him as patron saint of desperate causes began in France and Germany in the late 18th century. Though Saint Gregory the Illuminator has been credited as the “Apostle to the Armenians,” the Apostles Jude and Bartholomew are believed to have

brought Christianity to Armenia, where Jude was rumoured to have later been martyred.

There is some debate about where Jude died, though most Biblical scholars agree he was martyred. He is believed to have been martyred either in Armenia or Beirut.

Following his death, St. Jude’s body was brought to Rome and left in a crypt in St. Peter’s Basilica. Today his bones can be found in the left transept of St. Peter’s Basilica under the main altar of St. Joseph in a tomb he shares with the remains of the apostle Simon the Zealot.

Pilgrims came to St. Jude’s grave to pray and many reported a powerful intercession, leading to the title, “The Saint for the Hopeless and the Despaired.” Two Saints, St. Bridget of Sweden and St. Bernard, had visions from God asking them to accept St. Jude as “The Patron Saint of the Impossible.”

Roman Catholics invoke St. Jude when in desperate situations because his New Testament letter stresses that the faithful should persevere in the environment of harsh, difficult circumstances -just as their forefathers had done before them; therefore, he is the patron saint of desperate cases.

There have also been several sites across the world dedicated to the Apostle Jude, including shrines and churches. The National Shrine of Saint Jude was founded in 1955 and can be found in England.

There are two mentions of Jude in the New Testament: Luke 6:16 and Acts 1:13.

When the apostles are listed in Matthew 10:3 and Mark 3:18, Jude’s name does not appear but “Thaddeus” does. This occurrence led early Christians to believe Jude was known as both “Jude” and “Thaddeus,” the latter of which could have been a sort of nickname.

“Thaddeus” may have become a popular nickname for Jude following Judas Iscariot’s betrayal.

Conclusion:

However meagre in detail, are the history of these glorious apostles, we learn from their brief legend how amply they contributed to this great work of generating sons of God.

Pope's message for World Youth Day: 'Young people must go in haste to others, just like Mary'

Pope Francis released a third message for the 37th World Youth Day (WYD) 2022 - 2023, to be held in Lisbon in 2023, after being postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and urged young people to follow in the footsteps of Our Lady, going in haste to others and dedicating our lives to Jesus.

In this final message of a trilogy, the Holy Father recalled the theme of the last WYD, held in 2019 in Panama: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38).

"After that event, we resumed our journey towards a new destination – Lisbon 2023 – with hearts afire with God's urgent summons to arise," noted the Pope.

Over the last few years, in each message, we have reflected on numerous themes, with, in common, the word "arise". "It is a word", stressed the Pope, "that also speaks to us of getting up from our slumber, waking up to the life all around us."

The Pope noted that in these troubling times of the pandemic and war "Mary shows to all of us, and especially you, young people like herself, the path of proximity and encounter."

The Holy Father then expressed his hope that the experience many young people will have in Lisbon for WYD in August 2023 will "represent a new beginning for you" and for humanity as a whole.

Mary arose ...

Pope Francis went on to note that, after the Annunciation, Mary could have focused on herself, but that "instead, she entrusted herself completely to God". She arises and sets out, for she is certain that God's plan is the best plan for her life, stressed the Pope. "Mary", the Pope continued, "becomes a temple of God, an image of the pilgrim Church, a Church that goes forth for service, a Church that brings the good news to all!"

In the accounts of the resurrection, we often encounter two words: "awake" and "arise", noted the Pope.

"The Mother of the Lord is a model for young people on the move, who refuse to stand in front of a mirror to contemplate themselves or to get

caught up in the 'net'. Mary's focus is always directed outwards."

... and went with haste

Pope Francis went on to note that, in his commentary on the Gospel of Luke, Saint Ambrose of Milan writes that Mary set out in haste towards the hills, "because she rejoiced in the promise and sought to serve others with the enthusiasm born of her joy." Mary's haste is thus a sign of her desire to serve, explained the Pope.

When faced with concrete and urgent needs, we need to act quickly, stressed the Pope, asking, "what kinds of 'haste' do you have, dear young people?"

Healthy haste drives us always upwards and towards others

The Pope went on to note that there is a difference between a healthy haste, which drives us upwards "and towards others" and an unhealthy haste "which can drive us to live superficially and take everything lightly."

Nearing the end of his message, the Pope reminded young people around the world that "now is the time to set out in haste towards concrete encounters, towards genuine acceptance of those different from ourselves."

"My message for you, dear young people, the great message entrusted to the Church, is Jesus! Yes, Jesus Himself, in His infinite love for each of us, His salvation and the new life He has bestowed upon us."

All together to Lisbon!

Finally, Pope Francis expressed his hope that the young people planning to attend WYD may be able to "experience anew the joy of encountering God and our brothers and sisters."

"After a long period of social distancing and isolation, we will all rediscover in Lisbon – with God's help – the joy of a fraternal embrace between peoples and generations, an embrace of reconciliation and peace, an embrace of new missionary fraternity!"

Like Mary, concluded the Pope, "let us 'arise and go in haste'."

- VATICAN NEWS

less interaction with real people face-to-face. Everything is online. People wear social masks and do not reveal their real personalities. Thus many get fooled by the fake persona adopted by internet users.

There may be a decrease in social abilities because many have forgotten how to interact well with others face to face for communication today is mostly online.

The internet causes physical issues like obesity and an unhealthy lifestyle. Many young people and elderly people may become addicted to pornography very easily available online.

Also children using the internet are unsafe from predators. They lure the kids into a false sense of security by their sweet talks. Kidnappings, rape are some of the dangers. Many paedophiles and sex offenders lurk on the internet searching for easy prey.

There is a great surge of love scammers. These people lure gullible women both young and old

into false love relationships and scam them of their money and sadly even their lifetimes.

Yet, we have to admit the internet is valuable in our daily life. But when we look back into the past, we realise that although people of the past did not have access to the internet, they still led happy lives.

There was more social interaction, more chance to develop hobbies and less crime being committed.

So while the internet is wonderful, let's not scoff at the people of the past. Perhaps they were not technologically advanced like us but also perhaps their lives may have not been as complicated and stress and danger filled as ours. But it remains true that our world is now connected to the internet like neurons in a giant brain.

There are two sides to every coin. We must remember that. Yet, we owe the internet a great deal and truly this Internet Day on 29th October, let's celebrate it with gratitude for it has changed our lives.



There is no Joy Greater than the Joy of GIVING

Bertha Sardinha, Goa

It is with a grateful heart that I am making a humble contribution of Rs. 2,00,000, towards the Ashram. It is for the welfare of the Balbhavan orphan boys and the other community activities of Fr. Agnel Ashram.

Praveen Srivastava, Kandivali

As part of my regular monthly contribution, I have transferred Rs. 1,10,500. Keep up the good work, dear Ashram Fathers and the entire team.

Sosamma Saje, UAE

We have remitted Rs. 40,000 as our humble gift for the Balbhavan orphanage children. Please accept the same as token money.

Flavia D'Souza, Andheri

I have sent Rs. 25,000 to your Ashram, as donation for the Balbhavan children, their education, food, clothing and shelter.

Silloo Darukhanwala, Western Australia

I am happy to remit Rs 10,000 as full sponsorship of a Balbhavan boy. Fr. Agnel Ashram is doing a wonderful job of moulding the orphan boys into respectable members of society.

Margaret D'Souza, Andheri

Please accept my humble contribution of Rs. 25,000. The children at all the Balbhavan Centres of the Agnel Region are God's gift to us. The Ashram is striving hard towards fulfilling its mission of transforming these beautiful gifts for our nation and for God.



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

THANKSGIVING FOR MANY FAVOURS RECEIVED

NALASOPARA: I am thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for the many favours received. I have come to the Ashram and made an offering.

-P. D'Souza

GIFT OF A SON

KURLA: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my prayers have been answered. I have been blessed with a healthy baby. A love offering has been given at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

-S. D'Costa

SUCCESS IN STUDIES

ANDHERI: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have achieved success in my studies. A thanksgiving offering has been given to the Ashram.

-R. Fernandes

SECURED A GOOD JOB

NALASOPARA: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have been blessed with a good job. A thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-M. Fernandes

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

MIRA ROAD: I am thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for my birthday celebration and the blessings received. With a grateful heart, I have come to the Ashram and made a love offering.

-B. & D. D'Souza

THANKSGIVING FOR BOATS

UTTAN: We have been blessed with a successful fishing business. We have our own boats, through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. A love offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-Soniya

COMPLETION OF STUDIES

MUMBAI: As a firm devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel, through his kind intercession, I have completed my studies. I am happy to make an offering to the Ashram.

-Alfonsa & Paul

THANKSGIVING FOR GOOD JOB & GOOD HEALTH

NALASOPARA: My prayers have been answered. I have received the favour of a good job and good health. A thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-J. Gonsalves

SUCCESS IN BUSINESS

VIRAR: Through the blessings of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my business is a success. A thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-A. D. D'Souza

FAVOURS RECEIVED

VASAI: Through fervent prayers and the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have received several favours. In gratitude, an offering has been made at the Ashram.

-J. D'Silva

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."
-Isaiah 40:31

Out of Their Bounty

S. Devasia	Kerala	50,000	A. Henriques	Thane	5,000	P. Davkhare	Mumbai	2,000
A. Alphonso	Mumbai	24,000	R. Prasad	Thane	5,000	Princeton	Mumbai	2,000
S. Darukhanwala	Australia	20,000	V. Rodrigues	Thane	5,000	R. Valentine	Mumbai	2,000
A. Austin	Mumbai	19,000	D. Gonsalves	Vasai	5,000	S. Babulal	Mumbai	2,000
R. Machado	Tamil Nadu	12,000	C. Alvares	Mumbai	4,000	S. Chavan	Mumbai	2,000
K. Parmar	Gujarat	11,111	E. Fernando	Mumbai	4,000	S. Kusurkar	Mumbai	2,000
S. Jhaveri	Mumbai	11,000	R. Fernandes	U.A.E.	4,000	S. Michael	Mumbai	2,000
G. Chavan	Mumbai	10,500	F. Rodrigues	Vasai	4,000	V. Shah	Mumbai	2,000
T. Pinto	Karnataka	10,000	J. Macwan	Vasai	4,000	R. Sajimon	Navi Mumbai	2,000
Prof. Verghese	Kerala	10,000	M. Fernandes	Uttan	3,600	A. Sequeira	Palghar	2,000
A. Anthony	Mumbai	10,000	S. Fernandes	Goa	3,000	B. Gonsalves	Palghar	2,000
A. Olakkengil	Mumbai	10,000	R. Samuel	Kerala	3,000	M. Rodrigues	Palghar	2,000
B. Rodrigues	Mumbai	10,000	A. Lobo	Mumbai	3,000	M. Silvera	Palghar	2,000
G. Tauro	Mumbai	10,000	A. Rumao	Mumbai	3,000	V. Gabru	Palghar	2,000
Kevin Martis	Mumbai	10,000	B. Fernandes	Mumbai	3,000	C. Engles	Punjab	2,000
M. D'Silva	Mumbai	10,000	N. Desai	Mumbai	3,000	K. Thaines	Tamil Nadu	2,000
V. Ghadially	Mumbai	10,000	J. Dominic	Navi Mumbai	3,000	P. Hendricks	Tamil Nadu	2,000
Y. Fernandes	Mumbai	10,000	S. Inigo	Tamil Nadu	3,000	C. Fernandes	Thane	2,000
Grace Techno Links	Navi Mumbai	10,000	S. Thaines	Tamil Nadu	3,000	G. Lewis	Thane	2,000
B. Burboz	Palghar	10,000	L. Lopes	Vasai	3,000	O. Noronha	Thane	2,000
J. Jacob & Fly	Thane	10,000	S. Dabre	Vasai	3,000	V. John	Vasai	2,000
M. Dantas	Vasai	10,000	F. Gonsalves	Vasai	3,000	A. Texon	Mumbai	1,800
S. Lopes	Vasai	9,000	Z. Dushing	Aurangabad	2,500	K. Thomas	Kerala	1,500
L. Dpenha	Mumbai	8,000	Techno Products	Chennai	2,500	R. George	Kerala	1,500
Lyn G.	Mumbai	8,000	A. Jagtiani	Mumbai	2,500	R. Joseph	Kerala	1,500
N. Asher	Mumbai	8,000	C. D'Souza	Mumbai	2,500	A. Bores	Mumbai	1,500
N. Bajaj	Mumbai	8,000	J. Tandon	Mumbai	2,500	A. Saldhana	Mumbai	1,500
W. D'Silva	Mumbai	7,500	P. Abreo	Mumbai	2,500	A. Samtaney	Mumbai	1,500
M. Lucien	Tamil Nadu	6,000	P. Solanki	Dubai	2,000	D. Fernandes	Mumbai	1,500
M. Doshi	Mumbai	5,500	A. Macwan	Gujarat	2,000	J. D'Souza	Mumbai	1,500
S. Srinath	Singapore	5,001	S. D'Souza	Karnataka	2,000	P. Collins	Mumbai	1,500
C. Vinjor	Ahmednagar	5,000	M. Vadakan	Kerala	2,000	P. Mody	Mumbai	1,500
L. Capadia	Chennai	5,000	N. Joshi	Kerala	2,000	S. Cardozo	Mumbai	1,500
R. Shah	Gujarat	5,000	N. Thomas	Kerala	2,000	R. Carval	Vasai	1,500
M. Pundir	Haryana	5,000	P. T. Joseph	Kerala	2,000	X. Gomes	Kolkata	1,200
C. Moras	Karnataka	5,000	R. Francis	Kerala	2,000	S. Dandiwalla	Mumbai	1,200
H. Mathias	Karnataka	5,000	S. Thomas	Kerala	2,000	T. D'Souza	Mumbai	1,111
M. D'Souza	Karnataka	5,000	S. George	Kerala	2,000	C. Veigas	Mumbai	1,100
Freejo M.	Kerala	5,000	S. Elas	Kolhapur	2,000	S. Gokal	Diu	1,001
J. Puthur	Kerala	5,000	L. Menezes	Mangalore	2,000	A. Khan	Mumbai	1,001
V. Nazareth	Mangalore	5,000	A. Abraham	Mumbai	2,000	H. Sachdev	Mumbai	1,001
A. Fernandes	Mumbai	5,000	A. Barot	Mumbai	2,000	P. Bangera	Mumbai	1,001
A. Gupta	Mumbai	5,000	A. Bhandari	Mumbai	2,000	G. Rajesh	Ahmednagar	1,000
Agnelio Engg.	Mumbai	5,000	A. Daruwalla	Mumbai	2,000	A. L. Macwan	Gujarat	1,000
C. Unwala	Mumbai	5,000	A. Kelawalla	Mumbai	2,000	A. Patelia	Gujarat	1,000
D. Crasto	Mumbai	5,000	A. Pinheir	Mumbai	2,000	M. Waghela	Gujarat	1,000
D. Desai	Mumbai	5,000	A. Remedios	Mumbai	2,000	T. Kotak	Gujarat	1,000
E. Lewis	Mumbai	5,000	A. Sequeira	Mumbai	2,000	N. Nelson	Kalyan	1,000
Jessica F.	Mumbai	5,000	A. Silvera	Mumbai	2,000	D. Silva	Karnataka	1,000
K. Saldanha	Mumbai	5,000	D. Silveira	Mumbai	2,000	H. Miranda	Karnataka	1,000
M. Valiyaveetil	Mumbai	5,000	F. Cardoza	Mumbai	2,000	J. Pinto	Karnataka	1,000
M. Zainabadi	Mumbai	5,000	F. Saldanha	Mumbai	2,000	L. D'Silva	Karnataka	1,000
P. Pai	Mumbai	5,000	G. Pulikkal	Mumbai	2,000	Darragh Smail & Co.	Kerala	1,000
R. Gonsalves	Mumbai	5,000	J. Albuquerque	Mumbai	2,000	E. Pious	Kerala	1,000
R. Parikh	Mumbai	5,000	J. Johnson	Mumbai	2,000	F. Jose	Kerala	1,000
S. Gokhale	Mumbai	5,000	J. Saldanha	Mumbai	2,000	J. Chackochen	Kerala	1,000
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	5,000	J. Xavier	Mumbai	2,000	Jose K.	Kerala	1,000
T. Pereira	Mumbai	5,000	L. Abreo	Mumbai	2,000	K. Antony	Kerala	1,000
Z. Wadia	Mumbai	5,000	L. Crasto	Mumbai	2,000	M. Antony	Kerala	1,000
J. Swamy	Nasik	5,000	L. Fernandes	Mumbai	2,000	R. Johnson	Kerala	1,000
Bhaskerrai/Saroj	Oman	5,000	L. Lobo	Mumbai	2,000	Riju A.	Kerala	1,000
G. Gonsalves	Palghar	5,000	M. Fernandes	Mumbai	2,000	S. Sebastian	Kerala	1,000
J. Gomes	Palghar	5,000	M. Fernando	Mumbai	2,000	Sigma Industries	Kerala	1,000
S. Colaso	Palghar	5,000	M. John	Mumbai	2,000	T. Xavier	Kerala	1,000
J. Fuller	Tamil Nadu	5,000	N. Correia	Mumbai	2,000	V. Paul	Kerala	1,000
V. Heldt	Telangana	5,000	N. Irani	Mumbai	2,000	D. Kumar	Mumbai	1,000

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering bids farewell to outgoing Principal Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan

*A leader is you, a leader is kind,
A leader is someone who leads from behind,
A leader is you, a leader is wise,
A leader is someone we do not despise,
A leader is you, a leader is me,
A leader is someone who we can believe,
A leader is you, a leader is me,*

A leader like Srija ma'am not everyone can be.

At a well-attended function held at the Samvaad Hall of Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra, Mumbai, on 30th August 2022, outgoing Principal Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan was given a warm send-off by over 150 faculty members of the college and the affiliated institutions.



Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan (centre), the outgoing principal of Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra, seen with Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza, the Director of the college and other dignitaries.

Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Local Superior of Fr. Agnel Ashram and Director, Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra, presided over the function. The new college principal, Dr. Surendra Singh Rathod, was also in attendance, along with a host of dignitaries.

Joining the institution in 1992 as a faculty member, Dr. Srija rose to be the Principal and served in this capacity for over a decade, in an illustrious career spanning over 30 years.

Excellent leadership qualities

A good leader is someone who knows the way, shows the way and goes the way. Time and again, Dr. Srija had shown in more ways than

one that hard work and persistence are the keys to success. Her sporting attitude and calm aura made for a perfect leader who could always guide her people in various walks of life.

A Student's Principal, she mentored and guided hundreds of thousands of students while she maintained the office. Students remembered her that even with years of academic experience and excellence, she was a humble soul with a beautiful smile which made one seem so warm and welcoming even to confused students.

With her immense depth of technical knowledge regarding academics, she always knew the best solution to the problems encountered by students. Dr. Srija possessed the perfect qualities to interact with young teenage minds that were still in their formative years. At times when it felt like there is no hope, her door was always open for students and faculty members.

A brilliant academician, Dr. Srija has over 60 published articles in national and international journals and conferences to her credit. She has worked in various capacities in the world of



Dignitaries at the farewell function of Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan.

education, even as part of several university committees and was the paper setter for the UPSC Engineering Services Examination, among many other posts held.

In her farewell speech, Dr. Shrija Unnikrishnan thanked the management, staff and students of CRCE and heads of other affiliate units, for their co-operation during her tenure and the happy memories that she would cherish forever.

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Installation Ceremony of the new Regional Superior of the Agnel Region and his Council, at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra



Seen from Left to Right are: Rev. Fr. Peter D'Souza (2nd Councillor), Rev. Fr. Saturnino Almeida, outgoing Regional Superior, Rev. Fr. Nazareth Fernandes, the Superior General of the Society of Pilar, Rev. Fr. Bento Rodrigues, the new Regional Superior and Rev. Fr. Alarico Carvalho (1st Councillor).

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