



BOSCO BEAMS

St. John Bosco Church | Parish e-Bulletin

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Ashes To Glory



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My Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of Fr. Flovi D'souza, Fr. Renold Lemos, Fr. Aloysius Furtado, Fr. Mylin Noronha and myself, I wish you and your families a Happy Easter.

A few years ago, a group of salesmen were on their way to board a flight. One of them kicked over a table, which held a display of apples. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly-missed boarding...

ALL BUT ONE!!! paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned.

He told his buddies to go on without him, waved good-bye and returned to the terminal where the apples were strewn all over the terminal floor. The 16-year-old girl was totally blind! She was crying softly, tears running down her cheeks in frustration and at the same time helpless. The salesman helped organize her display and when he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take money for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears. He continued on, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister...." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "**Are you Jesus?**"

He gently went back and said, "No, I am nothing like Jesus - He is good, kind, caring, loving and would never have bumped into your display in the first place.

The girl gently nodded: "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me and He sent you to help me, so you are like Him - only He knows who will do His will. Thank you for hearing His call, Mister."

Do people mistake you for Jesus?

That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love.

The nicest place to be is in someone's thoughts, the safest place to be is in someone's prayers, and the very best place to be is ...in the hands of God.

I take this privilege of relaunching the "**Bosco Beams**" in an E-bulletin format to keep our Parishioners updated with the activities of our Parish.

This issue focuses on "**Ashes to Glory**", which covers parish Lenten programs animated by various associations and zonal communities.

I humbly implore you to make Bosco Beams a Parish family news E-bulletin by contributing informative and creative articles.

God Bless you!!!

Fr. Solomon Rapol, SDB
Rector & Parish Priest

Don Bosco High School – Evolving through Time to Enrich and Empower Young Minds

It all started in the year 1970. Borivli was then a quiet and a sleepy town, with equally sleepy bylanes, surrounded with lush paddy fields and dotted habitation.

Armed with the blessings of our Patron, St. John Bosco and trusting in divine providence, a group of Salesians began an Aspirantate to nurture the upcoming vocations. It was named St. Paul's Apostolic School. It was named after Saint Paul, the Apostle, to commemorate the visit of Pope Paul VI on the occasion of the Eucharistic Congress in 1964.

Due to shortage of personnel and drop in vocations, it was decided to merge the aspirants of Lonavala and Borivli. Thus, in 1975 the boys from Borivli were shifted to Lonavla. St. Paul's school was renamed as Don Bosco High School.

In 1975, under the Rectorship and Principalship of Fr. Joseph Menezes, a redimensioning took place. Don Bosco Primary School and Kindergarten began with about 300 students.

The school that began with 13 boys in Standard VIII and 30 in Standard IX is proud today to have well-nigh 2000 students on its records in 4 sections - Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary and Junior



Aspirants and staff of the St. Paul's Apostolic School.





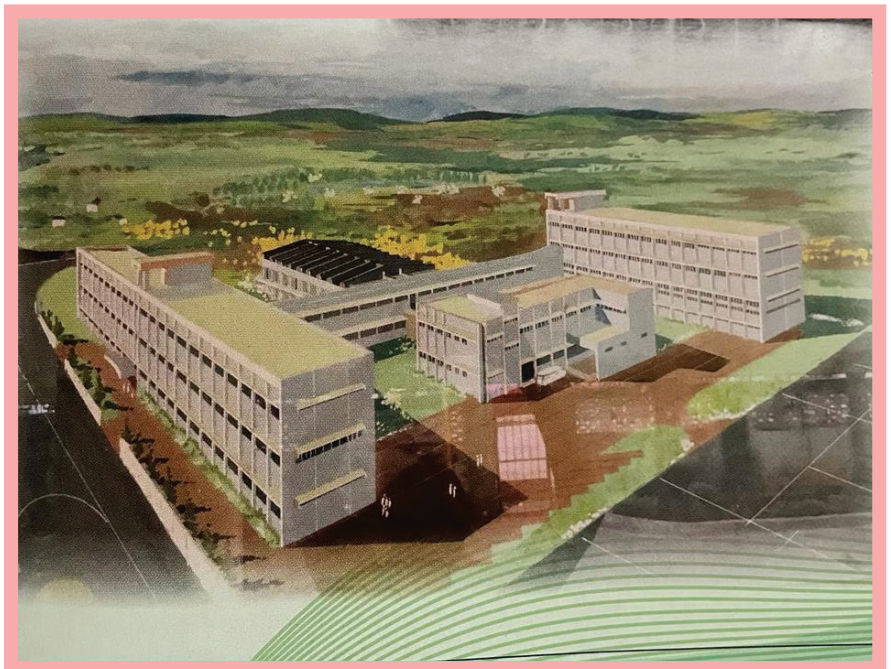
College. The system of education based on Don Bosco's three pillars - Reason, Religion and Loving Kindness became well-known to all those who came in contact with the school.

The pioneering efforts made during the initial years have borne rich fruits during these 50 years. The school has kept up with changing times and responded to the needs of students regularly. Today, the school is much sought after for its standard of education, discipline and sports culture, thus giving back to the society, a true and a responsible citizen.

From achieving cent percent results consecutively for the 17th time,

excelling in sports, to bringing in the girls and commencing the Junior college and most recently beginning the CBSE curriculum, we've surely come a long way!

Keeping up with the changing times and catering to the growing needs of the students, a new building was constructed after razing down the old primary building structure. The pandemic and all the paraphernalia that surrounded it posed a serious threat during the formative period, but the spirit of Don Bosco persisted. We were able to put up a marvellous structure giving shape to the dreams of thousands of young minds entrusted to us.



The marvelous growth of this institution from its humble beginning is truly a manifestation of God's love for the countless children, who have now crossed all portals, securing them a bright future. All this was possible due to the commitment, dedicated service of the management, staff and active involvement of the students and their parents.

Today, as we stand at the threshold of a new beginning, getting ready to move in to the new building, which will house the CBSC section, we raise our hearts and minds to the Lord in thanksgiving for His benevolence and providence and firm in faith that our Lord will continue to bless this institution that it may bear witness to His glory.

Fr Flovi D'souza, SDB
Principal, Don Bosco High School



Sports Facilities in Don Bosco Borivli Campus



Sports play a pivotal role in shaping one's personality and good health. Hence Don Bosco, Borivali has especially developed a sports complex, which measures up to international standards and provides sports enthusiasts world class experience. Don Bosco, Borivali is known for its new state-of-the-art Multipurpose Astro Turf with floodlights on which various sports are being conducted. On the Astro turf sports like Football, Cricket and Hockey are being played. These games can be played with 11 players aside. The Astro Turf is made up of 4 futsal and so it also provides an opportunity where a game can be played on a futsal with 5 to 6 players a side. There is also a facility with floodlights for Cricket batting and bowling with 3 net alleys, where Box Cricket can also be played. A newly laid Basketball court has been a centre of attraction for the basketball buffs. Skating on the tar surface has been favored by all the skaters and their parents. There is also space provided to hone one's skills in athletics. On weekdays, Astro Turf is available for playing from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and on weekends from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. For further information and bookings, you can contact Sports Office at Don Bosco, Borivali through a call: 9769181423/9082464721.

Everyone needs a break from a routine to re-energize, and there is no better way to regain lost energy and reinvigorate your personality than participating in sporting activities. Let us encourage children to engage in sports, which will help them stay physically active and calm their minds.

– Fr. Renold Lemos, SDB

GOD'S GRACE AT ASSISSI BHAVAN



Lent is a season of simple living and doing good and charitable works. Jesus provided for the hungry and cared for the sick. The Salesian Cooperators of St John Bosco Church, Borivali unit, along with their delegate, Fr Solomon Rapol decided to dedicate some time to visit the aged and spend some time with them. So, on 9th March, 2023 at 3.45 pm, a busload of about 20 Salesian Cooperators visited Assissi Bhavan, a home for the aged ladies in Goregaon East. Two past pupils, Sunil Vasandani and Thomas Shaji Verghese also accompanied the co-operators.

Assissi Bhavan is run by the Franciscan Hospitaller Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (FHIC). It is a home for the aged women run by extremely dedicated nuns and sisters who are providing the seniors a life of dignity. They make sure that the aged get the basic care and facilities needed during this fragile phase of their lives. In addition to healthy and hygienic meals, the home also conducts many activities so that the inmates don't get lonely.

At Assissi Bhavan, Sister Superior Maria Angela and her team of sisters welcomed the Co-operators very cordially and warmly. The elderly lady inmates were all gathered in the open quadrangle, seated in chairs and had smiles on their faces. The elderly inmates and the Co-operators chatted amicably, exchanging information. The women informed their names, where they were from and since how long they have been at the home, and in turn, they asked the Co-operators which parish they belonged to. They were very happy and contented at the home and appreciated the love and care shown by the nuns.

After the introductory chat and getting to know some of the inmates, it was time for some snacks. The two past pupils, Sunil Vasandani and Thomas Verghese sponsored the snacks and the team set up the snack tables and the eats. The elderly women and the nuns were all served with a variety of lip-smacking chaat items – panipuri, sevpuri, bhelpuri, ragda and pattice. Everyone relished the chaats with gusto. The Cooperators then got the inmates and the Sisters to engage in a game of housie. All of them participated with enthusiasm and eagerness, with the Salesian Cooperators assisting some of the elderly inmates. The winners were excited when they won the various categories and received prizes. This was followed by a session of foot-tapping music and dance. A mix of English, Konkani and Hindi songs were sung and played and many of the inmates joined in the singing. Some of the women sportingly came onto the dance floor, swayed to the music and danced with the Cooperators. While the song and dance entertainment was going on, the



Cooperators brought out the child in every one of them by serving them candy floss. Many of them delighted in the simple, childish treat, making funny faces as they licked it gleefully. This was followed by a game of passing the parcel and finally a dessert – kulfi bars to finish the programme.

It was an evening of fun for all – for the elderly women, the Sisters and to us visitors also who shared in their excitement. All the Sisters and helpers shower so much care and concern on the inmates and talk to them patiently. The Cooperators and Past Pupils could see and feel a lot of love and caring in everyone they interacted with there and were genuinely touched and humbled by the experience. To quote a few Co-operators:



“Seeing the smiles and happiness on the faces of all the elderly women, who are in the autumn of their life battling loneliness, brought a lump to my throat. All they want is somebody to talk to.”

“It was a very touching and affectionate visit. I was so overwhelmed with emotion when some inmates hugged me and said to come more often. I took home with me mixed emotions – sad moments and experiences that few women narrated and their happy, excited faces when they savoured the chaat, played games like children, sang and danced happily.”

“It was a great and humbling evening. The chaat and candy floss brought back childhood memories for the inmates. The joy and the twinkle in their eyes made me very happy.”

The Sisters and their team at Assisi Bhavan are blessed with God’s Grace to take care of the elderly women inmates. May God always shine His loving and compassionate face on all at Assisi Bhavan and may they always feel His comforting and healing presence. As we waved goodbye, we realized that real joy is in sharing and it can be something as simple, but so precious, as your time.

~ From the Salesian Cooperators’ Desk

And he said, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while."

SHANTI SAGAR CHARISMATIC HINDI PRAYER GROUP, spent a day at Lord's feet by organizing a Lenten Retreat on **March 14, 2023** in the **SCHOOL HALL**.

Every Year Shanti Sagar Hindi Prayer Group organizes **LENTEN RETREAT** to go more in deep with God, but due to Covid outbreak we missed 2 Years & this year we resumed by organizing Lenten Retreat in the School Hall.

Around 250-300 people attended this Retreat. The Retreat started in the morning at **9:30 am** with the **ROSARY**. After that at **10.00 am PRAISE & WORSHIP** was conducted by the entire Choir Group. The **main theme** of Praise & Worship was to **lead people towards God & inner purification**. After that the Word of God was given by **Br. Samson D'Silva** on our main Retreat's Theme i.e. **Acts 16:31 - And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household."** The Word of God was led by a healing service and a special prayer service was held for "family problems, jobs, marriage, healing from all deadly diseases, property matters, deliverance from witchcraft, success in exams, depression, financial difficulties, gift of child, common intentions, etc. Written **INTENTIONS** were also prayed over.

After this, there was blessing over meal followed by lunch from 1.00 pm to 1.45 pm. After lunch, all members reassembled in the School Hall. Testimony was given by our 3 Prayer Group Members followed by Action Songs. Subsequently, our Prayer Group conducted the **WAY OF THE CROSS** followed by **DIVINE MERCY PRAYER**.

After this, there was **ADORATION SERVICE** conducted by **Rev. Fr. Solomon Rapol** followed by a small talk on the topic : **HEALING MINISTRY OF JESUS**. Fr. Solomon prayed over the congregation by asking the people to lay their own hands on their body parts.

After this, **HINDI MASS** was celebrated by **Fr. Solomon** & all the intentions were also prayed over. The Retreat finally ended with serving of tea and biscuits. The entire event went on smoothly as every individual performed their assigned tasks diligently & with proper co-ordination.

– **Rosy Gonsalves & Core Group Members, Shanti Sagar Hindi Prayer Group**



Youth Lenten Experience

Taize Prayer Service

A Taize prayer service was organized in St. John Bosco Church. Chanting and meditation are the two fundamental elements of this devotional service. It is a contemplative style of praying. A prayer service was arranged by the youth for the young keeping this type of prayer in mind.

They began with an introductory prayer and a few minutes of chanting followed by the reading of the scripture. Fr. Renold Lemos served as the resource person to guide everyone through the reflection. He provided them with some deep, thought-provoking ideas that they should employ in their daily lives. This process of chanting and scripture reading was repeated twice.

The service then moved on to the intercessory prayer portion of the service, where everyone prayed for the youth as a whole and for God to bless them and motivate them to be better people.

The Lord's prayer was then said and the service ended with a concluding prayer.

It was engaging and profound as well as a great and all-encompassing experience. The youth had the opportunity to get closer to God, feel His presence in our life and learn more about the Lord's passion. For the youth, Lent has become more special and important with the help of this service.



Youth Mass

On 26th Feb 2023, DBYM had their monthly youth mass in the AV Hall. There were a total of 21 people present for this mass. The mass was also the first youth mass during the period of Lent. Fr. Renold celebrated the mass for the youth, providing an insight into the purpose of commitment during this period of Lent. He urged the youth to not be superficial and generic in their commitments, but to embrace the lenten season with a clean heart and an open mind. After the mass, the youth had their monthly meeting and games thereafter.



Lenten Experience – Konkani Retreat

A one day Konkani retreat was organized by the English prayer group on the 25th March 2023.

The main preachers were Fr. John Pinto and Fr. Prashanth D'Souza.

The retreat was attended by a large number of Konkani speaking faithful.

The exciting day began with a decade of Rosary and a vibrant Konkani praise and worship.

Fr. John's talk on "Why God loves us" filled our hearts with God's love.

Fr. Prashanth spoke on "Christian and the Cross" an appropriate topic for the Lenten season.

The priests were quite enlightening in their preaching.

The Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. John filled us with new hope. The homily on the annunciation of our Mother filled our hearts with mama's love.

The day ended with a prayer for inner healing and adoration service.

The gathering of about 106 faithful enjoyed the day with the Lord and were full of praises for the priests as well as the organizers, requesting for more such programs.

We thank Fr. Solomon Rapol our Parish priest and the parish team for providing us with this beautiful opportunity, for their generosity and whole hearted support and encouragement.

The evening ended with a vote of thanks, tea and light refreshments.

– Don Bosco core team, English Prayer Group





The Couples Retreat

St. John Paul II once said 'As goes the Family, so goes the World'. If we have stronger and prayerful families, our parish will become more vibrant. The Family Cell unit of Don Bosco, Borivali organises various events for enrichment of families in the parish. The Family Cell conducted a 'Couples Retreat' under the theme "Pati, Patni and Woh" (Jesus as the third person in our marriage). Fr. Ashwin Castelino from St. Michael's Church, Mahim was invited to conduct this special retreat on 25th March 2023.



We had around 100 people consisting of couples and singles who participated in the retreat. The first session conducted by Fr. Ashwin was based on the theme Pati, Patni and Woh wherein our marriage circle comprises of husband, wife and God at the centre. We should not allow any third person to influence or affect this sacred relationship.

The second was on how to handle Marital Conflicts, wherein he said that 31% of the problems are solvable and 69% are perpetual so we must try to solve the 69% problems through proper communication, giving time for each other and prayer... We should not try to change our spouse but instead change ourselves first. He also presented some role plays to understand the subject better.

Post lunch a healing adoration was conducted by Fr. Ashwin and thereafter he wound up the retreat with a Question and Answer session.

– **Bernie Dmello & Veena Fernandes**

Parish Lenten Missions 2023

In the month of March 2023, the parishioners of St. John Bosco parish were privileged to have a series of sessions by eminent preachers. It was held in short sessions, keeping in mind the busy schedules of our young and working parishioners.

On 3rd March 2023, Fr Robin Fargose, DC, appropriately began the first session explaining to us the 'Power of the Cross' and how our Saviour made it a symbol of love and victory by dying on the Cross for the love of each one of us. We too are called not to shy away from the Cross, but to accept it with courage.

On 10th March 2023, we had our very own Fr. Solomon Rapol, who encouraged us to pick one area of our life that requires pruning, fixing and to work on it this Lent season, so that we can avoid that particular sin in our life.

On 13th and 14th March 2023, we had Fr. Henry D'souza, SVD, an anointed preacher and Parish Priest from St. Theresa's Church, Bandra. He preached that we all are in this world for a purpose and we all crave for happiness. But it is only in God that we find true happiness and fulfilment. Just like Abraham, Noah and Mary, we should believe in the promises of God and walk in perfect obedience.

On 15th and 16th March 2023, Fr. Gavin Lopez, DC, enlightened us of the evils prevailing in society and how it was affecting our Christian families. We, as parents, are duty bound to bring up our children with good Christian values. If we take one step towards Jesus, He is willing to embrace us with loving and open arms.

On 24th March 2023, Deacon Ivan Fernandes, Director of the Diocesan Youth Centre, elaborated for us Psalm 42 "As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you O God". There is that deep yearning in our souls for the Almighty.

On 29th March 2023, our young Salesian Fr. Sunil Pinto captivated the hearts of the parishioners. He explained how in the book of Daniel, the 3 Jewish men Shadarch, Meshach and Abednego, refused to bow down to the statue installed by the King and for that they were put into the fiery furnace. But the Lord protected them from every harm. The King could see 4 men unhurt, unfettered walking in the fire and the 4th looked like the son of God. This was the passage that touched his life and was responsible for his vocation.

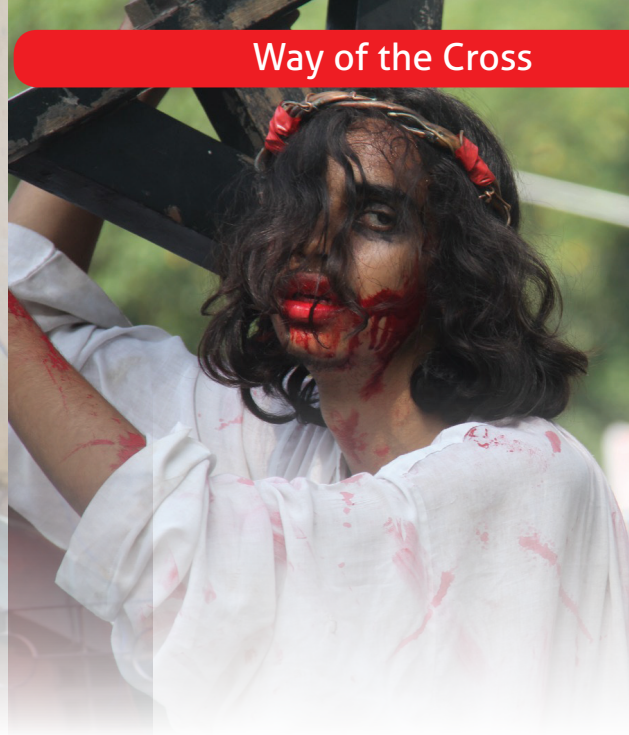
The last Friday of March, i.e. 31st March 2023, we had the young and dynamic Fr. Jerry Fernandes CSSR along with a deacon. Fr.

Jerry gave his life testimony and how he was touched and healed by the Lord Jesus. From a near death situation the Lord revived him and he gave his life for Jesus. The Lord does not look at our sinfulness and he loves each one of us unconditionally. He urged all to partake in the sacrament of Reconciliation, because our God is greater than any sin we have committed.

The parishioners who attended these valuable sessions truly benefitted and hopefully this Lent will make a difference in our lives.

– Yvonne Menezes (Yogi North)





GOOD FRIDAY LIVE WAY OF THE CROSS

On 7th April 2023, DBYM organized a live enactment of Jesus' passion and death, through the Way of the Cross. The act depicted a badly beaten and brutalized Jesus, being dragged to the place of crucifixion. The act consisted of 14 stations, with a good balance of acting, narration and prayerful moments. This time, the Way of the Cross took place outside the parish premises on the open road, adding to the ambience and the realistic nature that embodied the act. Each station consisted of reflections, where the parishioners were given an opportunity to associate the passion of Jesus with their daily lives and meditate on transforming their own lives in the passion of Jesus. The solemn nature of Mother Mary, Veronica, Simon and the crowd was well contrasted with the mocking nature of the soldiers, the chief priest and certain aggressive members of the crowd. It was a pathway to bring about various emotions among the audience; anger towards the soldiers, grief towards Jesus. The youth themselves really got involved in their characters and it was almost as if they





embodied the specific character they were playing. This enhanced the Way of the Cross bringing about genuine emotions and expressions from the actors.

Overall, the Live Way of the Cross was impactful in many ways, and certainly brought about a renewed stream of thought towards the passion and death of Jesus, both from the crowd and the actors. It was a great experience for all involved.

– DON BOSCO YOUTH MOVEMENT



Way of the Cross held at Gorai -I Zone

The Way of the Cross is an important Christian devotion that helps communities and individuals centre themselves on the Christ's passion. The Stations of Cross provide an excellent way for us to meditate on the particular ways in which Christ sacrificed His life for us and so through this meditation, we may be prompted to think a bit further about how we can model our own lives after Christ's.

Praying 14 Stations of the Cross is a devotion in honour of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We had Lenten Way of the Cross which was conducted in the month of March 2023. So, we decided to have it in sick and aged people societies. It was followed by walking through our zone with visit to 14 families with hymns, Divine Mercy and Rosary. We want to thank everyone for their time and active participation. May God bless all of them abundantly.

– Sandra Pinto, Gorai-I



Way of the Cross held at Vazira Zone

The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last journey on Earth to the Cross. The 14 devotions focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete.

We the members of Vazira Zone organized the Way of the Cross on 30th March 2023, at the residence of 5 different members of our zone. We started from the Grotto near the Church. We were around 22 members along with Fr Renold and Sr. Kalpana, who joined for the Way of the Cross to reflect and meditate on the Mystery of the Passion and Death of our Lord during this Lenten Season. We ended at the residence of Mr. Martin and Nirmala Almeida with a warm and loving fellowship meal sponsored by them.

– Vazira Zone



A Walk with the Lord – Gorai 2

The SCC of the St. Martins de Porres community, Gorai -2 conducts various events during the calendar year. One of the most awaited event that the members of the community eagerly look forward to is the Way of the Cross. As the Lenten season approaches, the zonal leaders plan for the Way of the Cross, which also marks as the final event for that particular year. The entire community participates whole-heartedly. During the pandemic, the zone met online and conducted the Way of the Cross successfully. This year the members wanted to have a live Way of the Cross, as the community always did before the pandemic. The Zonal leaders decided to have this event on Saturday 18th March 2023. It was decided to conduct 2 stations at the Housing Societies of every zonal leader of the community and also to wear full black attire as dress code for the event. Around 35 members of the community assembled at the Gorai Cross at 7.30 a.m. and started the proceedings with the first two stations. Thereafter, the members walked the journey to the planned locations. Midway at the 9th and 10th stations a small break was taken to serve water for those participating devotees. A small water counter was setup by Eco-Habits, an organic farming outlet. In all there were 7 halts spread across the entire zone and the event concluded at 9.00 a.m. with tea and sandwiches served for all those who were present. The members thanked the zonal leaders for the smooth planning of events and activities conducted by them during their tenure.

– Article compiled by Edmund D'Souza & Dorothy Chettiar



In Gospel of Mathew 16:24 Jesus says: *"If anyone wants to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me"*.

On Tuesday 4th April 2023, Don Bosco English Prayer group conducted a live Way of the Cross in church.



The Way of the Cross began with a short procession from the main gate of the Church with some zonal members dressed as Jesus, Mary, Veronica, disciples and followers, who were gathered in large numbers.

The faithful entered the Church prayerfully singing hymns.

The 14 stations that were enacted/proclaimed had very meaningful reflections.



Jesus washing the feet of 2 disciples by kneeling down and kissing their feet brought an emotional feeling amongst the faithful. Scenes of Simon coming forward to help Jesus carry the Cross and Veronica singing for Jesus were also emotional. Jesus consoling the women of Jerusalem, Jesus being stripped off his garments and being nailed to the Cross, Jesus' death on the Cross and body taken down and kept on his beloved Mother's lap were some of the scenes that were enacted very meaningfully. The singing at different stations added more depth and meaning to the Way of the Cross.



During offering, the faithful brought food items, which were handed over to the SVP team to be distributed to the poor people.

The service concluded with a joyful hymn and blessing from Fr. Solomon, the Parish Priest.



The faithful gathered for this devotion had a word of appreciation as they felt they too were a part of a difficult journey with Jesus.

We thank Fr. Solomon and the parish team for their support, co-operation and encouragement and also for a word of appreciation.

– Don Bosco Core team, English Prayer Group



Bosco Novem Diebus at DB Borivali

The Don Bosco Youth Movement (DBYM) of St John Bosco Church, Borivli, organized nine days of fun-filled activities from 22 to 30 January 2023, during the Novena in honour of St John Bosco. The Fest was declared open by Fr Renold Lemos, the Youth Director, on January 22, 2023. In his inaugural address, he appealed to the parishioners to participate in the planned events in large numbers, thereby encouraging the youth of the parish. The entire programme was a treat right from the very beginning. The first day with Tempo Tantrums (a melodious singing event for all the parishioners) to Game Night during which a number of games were organized, both online and offline, to a showcase of culinary skills - Jashan-e-Lazeez was a great experience. A Movie Nite was organised for the youth during which the short film 'Stop', written by Mr Aaron D'Sa and directed by Mr Wencelaus Rebello - both youth of our parish - highlighting the discrimination of persons. This was followed by the screening of 'Blue Miracle', a film highlighting trust in God.



Past Quarter Events



Novena in honour of St. John Bosco



DBYM PRESENTS

BOSCO NOVEM DIEBUS

JAN 22	TEMPO TANTRUMS 7 PM
JAN 23	GAME NIGHT 7:30 PM
JAN 24	MOVIE SCREENING 7:30 PM
JAN 25	JASHN-E-LAZEEZ 7:30 PM
JAN 26	FASHION FIESTA 7:30 PM
JAN 27	GOLD DIGGERS 7:30 PM
JAN 28	DB'S GOT TALENT 8:00 PM
JAN 29	JIVE CLASH 7:00 PM
JAN 30	YOUTH NITE 7:30 PM

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A zonal treasure hunt was organised bringing together parishioners scampering around in groups searching for the 'treasure'. Fashion Fiesta was a display of colour and glamour as the parishioners and youth dressed up according to the fashion of the 80s and 90s. Jive Clash and the Youth Nite were evenings of games, song and dance where youthfulness was celebrated to the full. It was the first time the DBYM organized such a fest during the Novena in preparation for the feast of Don Bosco. Mr Wilson D'Souza, a parishioner, while appreciating the youth said: "Truly, the youth of our parish have brought back the spirit of Don Bosco." Indeed, organizing such a programme was an effort put forth by the youth of the parish to mobilize the parishioners to return to the church post-Covid pandemic.

The DBYM Borivli is looking forward to organizing similar programs for its parishioners. The winners of various events were rewarded on 5th February 2023, at the 'Bosco Nite'.

Bosco Nite 2023

One of the most awaited events in the calendar of St. John Bosco Parish is the Feast of our patron saint, St. John Bosco and of course the Bosco Nite. This year Bosco Nite 2023 was extra special as it was being held after a gap of 2 years due to the COVID pandemic. Under the guidance and leadership of Fr. Solomon, Fr. Renold and the Vice-President of the PPC, Mr. Gavin Henriques, teams were set up to overlook the detailed planning of every aspect such as the event programming, logistics, financing, catering and marketing to ensure the event was a success.

The theme for the event this year was "Be the Yeast, Rekindle with the Bosco Family". The event began with a procession by the children and youth carrying the statue of our beloved Don Bosco to the tune of "We are the children of Don Bosco" followed by Fr. Flovi saying the opening prayer and Fr. Solomon announcing the opening of Bosco Nite 2023.

The first program was a prayer dance gracefully performed by the novices of St. Anne's choreographed by Sr. Kalpana. This was followed by some peppy songs performed by the group "Live Tunes," which got the audience on their toes, jiving to the lively songs. Other programs followed, included a skit titled "Happy Potamus", which had a profound message that was conveyed in a humorous way and had the audience rolling with laughter. More entertaining performances by our parishioners followed including performances by the winners of Tempo Tantrums and Don Bosco's Got Talent. There were games for all ages that saw our parishioners competing to win the prizes. The event was very professionally compered by our very own parishioner, Lolita D'Souza, who kept the pace of the event flowing smoothly and interacted well with the crowd. The youth and the confirmation students had a surprise Flash Mob performance that set the tone for the Jam Session, which saw our parishioners shake a leg to the latest music by DJ Sunil. A great event cannot be complete without great food and our caterer, Express Caterers, provided lip smacking soup, snacks and dinner.

The event was a great success and received good reviews from the parishioners, who enjoyed the various programs, games, food and music.

– Melrina Mascarenhas



World Marriage Day 2023

The Archdiocese of Mumbai celebrated the World Marriage Day on 19th February 2023. The Family Cell Unit of our Parish animated the 10:45 am Mass with renewal of marriage vows. Married couples of our Parish were invited through Sunday announcements. 50 couples registered (100 parishioners) for the event. Fr. Solomon Rapol, our Parish Priest celebrated the Eucharist and in his homily he emphasized on the following three main aspects.

- 1 We are called to holiness.
- 2 Our body is a temple of God.
- 3 We need to forgive our enemies and love one another.

After the homily, there was renewal of marriage of vows after which Fr. Solomon blessed all the couples present for the Eucharistic celebration. He also blessed the

book marks containing the family prayer, which was later distributed as souvenirs to all the couples.

Thereafter, a get-together was organised for all registered couples. While cake and coffee was being served, Mr. Francis Martin, a member of Family Cell, briefed the couples on the working and functioning of the Family Cell.

A special wedding march, ice breaker, games and few waltz dances were organised setting a perfect tone, creating a friendly ambience and getting the crowd in a dancing mood. Further, the Bombay East Indian and the Mangalorian masala got the entire crowd involved, making it an event to be remembered for a very long time.

Mrs. Virginia Rebello delivered the vote of thanks, thanking the Family Cell Unit and Parish team for organising the event. The celebration ended with a sumptuous meal by Velankanni Caterers.

Many couples came forward and appreciated the well organised event. For many it reminded them of their wedding day.

– **Veena Fernandes, Family Cell**





Catechism School

“The first step towards holy connect...”

As a kid I always wondered 'The Sunday School' will be just another session to attend to, but slowly I began to realize the stories told in each class connected me spiritually to "JESUS our LORD".

Every day was new and chaotic, but our loving teachers guided us to grow up with Jesus in a meaningful way.

As our catechism curriculum progressed, we missed our physical classes due to Covid-19 Virus, yet in this hour of discomfort, I felt God reached our homes to protect us through online sessions. During these online sessions as a family, we all remembered our Lord in a very innovative way.

I understood that our affectionate God is always around me to protect me and my family in different ways in spite of the Pandemic.

I grew up to be a much more confident boy and soon our routine was back to normal. Now from a toddler, I was a big boy and I noticed that all the elders in the church were privileged to taste the body of Christ....

I was anxious and inquisitive to find out what this could be? How would it taste? When will I be eligible? Surrounded by too many questions, my family and teachers once again came to my rescue.

They taught me all about this holy Sacrament, power of the Rosary and how Jesus sacrificed himself for our sins.

With these learnings, my faith in Christ increased.... and I waited anxiously to receive this holy Sacrament.

Once again we set enthusiastically to sail this journey together ... eventually the day arrived... our excitement knew no bounds.

It felt like a dream come true... I was finally going to receive the Holy Eucharistmy parents could sense my eagerness to taste the love of Christ. They ensured I attend the intensive week religiously and embrace God with full faith.

I would like to thank my teachers, priests and the Church authorities who methodically and lovingly imparted the knowledge about Christ.

I feel immensely blessed, the feeling of receiving Jesus is absolutely special. I now truly have a big responsibility at hand to lead a respectful life with utmost faith in our Almighty Lord.

– Donavan Rodrigues, First Holy Communion Class



Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a body which consists of all the zonal representatives, heads of lay associations, the priests of the Parish, Brothers of Missionary of Charities and Nuns of St. Anne's.

Term: The PPC serves for a period of 3 years. The current term was an exception as it was for 4 years, which was extended due to the lockdown. This term will expire in June 2023 and new members will be elected to represent their zones/associations. Some associations have already elected new heads and they will be a part of the new council. A representative can represent his/her zone for a maximum of two consecutive terms and then a new representative has to be elected.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee meets at least once a month before the PPC meeting to set the agenda. Points for discussion are sought from the members. The committee members are elected by the council members at the beginning of the term. While the parish priest is the President of the committee and also of the PPC, the other priests are a part of the committee. The committee comprises, President, Vice-President, Secretary and other members, who are elected by the council members. The head of the finance committee is nominated to the committee.

Role & Responsibility: The council members are supposed to be the eyes, ears and mouth of the parishioners and act as a link between the parish and the parishioners. They are expected to raise issues affecting the parishioners of their zone or their associations. They are also required to provide suggestions for making changes for the benefit of the parishioners and also which are in the interest of the parish. They are also expected to communicate to their zonal members the various steps taken by the parish to ensure smooth functioning and the new initiatives and programs undertaken by the parish.

Elections: Election for the heads of the various lay associations are held separately and many of the associations have already elected new heads. Election for the zonal representatives will be held this year in the month of April/May 2023. Members whose names are registered in the parish in their respective zones are eligible for voting. The eligible age for voting is 18 years. Any member who wishes to represent their respective zone can contest for the elections and is required to submit his/her details to the parish priest as soon as possible.

Be the Change that you want to see in others. M.K Gandhi

If you think that you can contribute to the betterment of your zone/association and in turn make a difference to the parish and the parishioners and the church as a whole, the Parish Priest and the PPC makes an earnest appeal to please contest the forthcoming elections and be the change that you would like to see in the parish.

Gavin Henriques

Vice President PPC & Zonal Representative Babhai Zone



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PARISH UPDATE



Birthstones

David Solomon born to Jenin and Serena from Eksar on 10th December 2022

Milestones

Sheldon Noronha from Old MHB and Sheralann Pereira married on 4th January 2023

Alex Cardoz from Gorai 1 and Perpetual Fernandes married on 15th January 2023



Tombstones

George Paul Swamy from Gorai 1 passed away on 19th January 2023

Owen Sequeira from Gorai 1 zone passed away on 27th January 2023

Neville Noronha from Gorai 3 zone passed away on 11th February 2023

Mr. Calistus Fernandez from Old MHB zone passed away on 19th February 2023.

Leena Lewis from Yogi North zone passed away on 29th March 2023



BCS update

Activities to be conducted in this quarter:

Month of April, 12th April Samast Christi Samaj Maha Morcha

Month of May, Gorai Cross Feast

Month of June, AGM and distribution of Cake on St. Paul's feast day.



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Bosco Beams is our St. John Bosco parish's quarterly e-bulletin. Parishioners are welcome to contribute in writing various articles, quizzes, biblical crosswords, humour, quotes, art work, etc.

Parish associations and zonal communities can provide articles on events and activities held during the quarter. Awards and achievements of parishioners in academics and profession. You can also publish free promotional advertisements of the forthcoming parish associations' events and zonal community activities during the next quarter.

Contact for content publication -

Allwyn Lobo (9594780039) & John Fernandes (9702587760)

Parishioners and others are welcome to subscribe for commercial promotional advertisements in the said issue. **Charges for Advertisement in the Parish e-bulletin - Full page Rs 2,000 and Half page Rs 1,000.**

Donations from parishioners and well-wishers are welcome. Income proceeds from Advertisements and Donations shall be transferred to Parish Renovation Account. You can draw cheques in favour of **St. John Bosco Parish Trust**

Contact for subscription of Advertisements/Donations -

Michelle Chawla (9594602277) & Joavna Rodrigues (9167452287)

You can email us at: beamsbosco@gmail.com