



BOSCO BEAMS

St. John Bosco Church | Parish e-Bulletin

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Quarterly Issue

December-2023

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**The Parish Community of St. John Bosco
&
Bosco Boys Home Community**



**Wishes all the Parishioners,
Merry Christmas &
Prosperous New Year 2024**



My dear Parishioners,

Urbi Et Orbi – Christmas Blessings by Pope Francis to the World.

Christmas is a time of profound significance, a season that calls us to reflect on the boundless love that God has bestowed upon us. It provides us with an opportunity to come together as a community. As we navigate the challenges of the past year, let us take a moment to appreciate the resilience and determination that each member of our community has demonstrated.

On this festive day, we turn our gaze to Bethlehem. The Lord comes to the world in a stable and is laid in a manger for animals since his parents could find no room in the inn, even though the time had come for Mary to give birth. He comes among us in silence and in the dark of night, because the word of God needs no spotlights or loud human voices. He is himself the Word that gives life its meaning, he is the Light that brightens our path. “The true light, which enlightens everyone” – the Gospel tells us – “was coming into the world” (Jn 1:9).

Like the shepherds of Bethlehem, surrounded by light, may we set out to see the sign that God has given us. Jesus is our peace. The peace that the world cannot give, the peace that God the Father has bestowed on humanity by sending his Son into the world. Saint Leo the Great summed up the message of this day in a concise Latin phrase: *Natalis Domini, natalis est pacis*: “the Lord’s birth is the birth of peace” (Serm. 26, 5).

Jesus Christ is also the way of peace. By his incarnation, passion, death and resurrection, he has opened the way that leads from a world closed in on itself and oppressed by the dark shadows of enmity and war, to a world that is open and free to live in fraternity and peace.

As we exchange gifts and gather with loved ones, let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas. It is a time to celebrate the birth of hope, love, and compassion. May this holiday season bring you moments of joy, laughter, and connection with those you hold dear.

May the magic of Christmas fill your hearts with warmth and illuminate the path for a bright and promising future. From my desk to your homes, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a joyful holiday season.

Father Solomon Rapol
Parish Priest & Rector



MARY, VESSEL OF HONOUR

As I held Him in my arms, the sweet weight of His tiny body cradled against my chest, I felt a love unlike any other. The warmth of His small frame, the delicate fingers that curled around mine, and His soft breath against my cheek filled me with an indescribable tenderness.

In that moment, I knew that this child was not just any child but the Son of God, the Messiah, the fulfilment of the prophecies. Awe enveloped me as I gazed into His innocent eyes, eyes that held the wisdom of the ages, eyes that would one day witness both the joys and sorrows of humanity.

I felt an overwhelming joy, a joy that surpassed any happiness I had ever known. It was a joy born of divine purpose, a sense that this tiny, vulnerable infant held the key to salvation for all of humanity. The weight of that responsibility was both humbling and awe-inspiring.

As I cradled Him, I whispered words of love and devotion, knowing that my role as His mother was a sacred one. I was chosen to nurture and protect Him, to guide Him through the trials and tribulations of life, and to witness His journey from a helpless infant to the Savior of the world.

In that moment, I understood the profound maternal and spiritual significance of His birth. I was not just a mother; I was a vessel of God's divine plan. My heart swelled with gratitude, and I knew that I would cherish and protect Him with all my being. This child, Jesus, was a gift to all of humanity, and I was blessed to be His mother.

-Vijaya D'sa

KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR

It comes with unfailing regularity once in three or four months, and it has been so since more than last sixteen years. It is the ring of the doorbell, twice in quick succession. The moment I hear this distinctive ring of the doorbell, I know without a shadow of a doubt who will be standing on the other side of the door. I open the door and a small smile flits across my lips as yes, it is the same person I expected to see.

More than sixteen years ago, when I opened the door for the first time to the double ring of the doorbell, it was to the sight of a short, elderly woman dressed in a simple, well-worn knee-length dress, with grey hair brushing her shoulders, grey eyes, hands stretched out in front, begging for some aid. In impeccable English, she narrated her woebegone tale of being cast out and abandoned by her husband. Initially, I greeted this tale with scepticism, but the light of honesty and integrity that shone from her grey eyes, made me sympathize with her and I gave her some financial assistance. She then started coming once every six months, every year. After a few years, the frequency of her visits increased to four or five times a year.

Many years later, I have come to reflect on the transition of my feelings for this visitor of mine (I do not see her as a beggar). For many years, I did not have a name to go with her face as I feared it would cross a threshold of familiarity and I did not want to think about her and her difficulties. It took me several years to summon up the courage to ask her name. It turned out to be Irene, a soft name and very apt for a gentle soul like her. The initial sympathy which I had for her when she first came knocking at my door more than sixteen years ago, changed to annoyance and resentment when the frequency of her visits increased to every couple of months, then gradually to acceptance and quiet resignation; and finally, it slowly evolved to liking and respect.

My respect for her grew as I have observed her to be strong and resilient to whatever brickbats life has thrown at her. She is now frail and feeble, her bones sticking out in her neck and arms, tired eyes sunken in a gaunt face ringed with few strands of straggly grey hair, her lined visage etched with so many crinkles.

Each crinkle tells a story – an abusive husband, death of her only daughter, illness and old age, desolation at being left penniless and bereft of family. Climbing up one flight of stairs to my home leaves her panting and breathless, so much so that she sits on the step to catch her breath. Despite these frailties, she walks slowly, travels by train and bus from Bandra to Borivali in the blazing heat of midday, to ask for some meagre assistance from a few families, to tide over her medical expenses. Her visits have now trickled down from six to two or three a year. She is now stooped and bent double at the waist, yet unbowed with dignity; she is pathetic in body, yet unbeaten in spirit; ravaged with age, yet strong in mind. She is always grateful, polite and courteous, and never ceases to ask about the wellbeing of my children, every time she comes knocking at my door.

She gratefully acknowledges every time whatever I give her in cash and kind, and her tired eyes light up with a gentle, beatific smile. In farewell, she always imparts her blessing, “God bless you and your family, baba. Have a good day.” I watch her bent, retreating form trudging slowly and painfully down the steps and softly close the door.

Every time I hear that double ring of the doorbell signalling that it is Irene, I feel as if God is knocking at my door. Just as Joseph and Mary knocked on doors thousands of years ago, before on that Christmas day, this frail Irene is also knocking on doors asking for a little help. I hope that in the ashes of her bleak circumstances, I have been able to put a little spark of life, helping her fight to stay alive in this bustling, indifferent world, and I feel that just maybe, both of us have had a glimpse of paradise. She has rung my doorbell, but I have also knocked at heaven’s door.

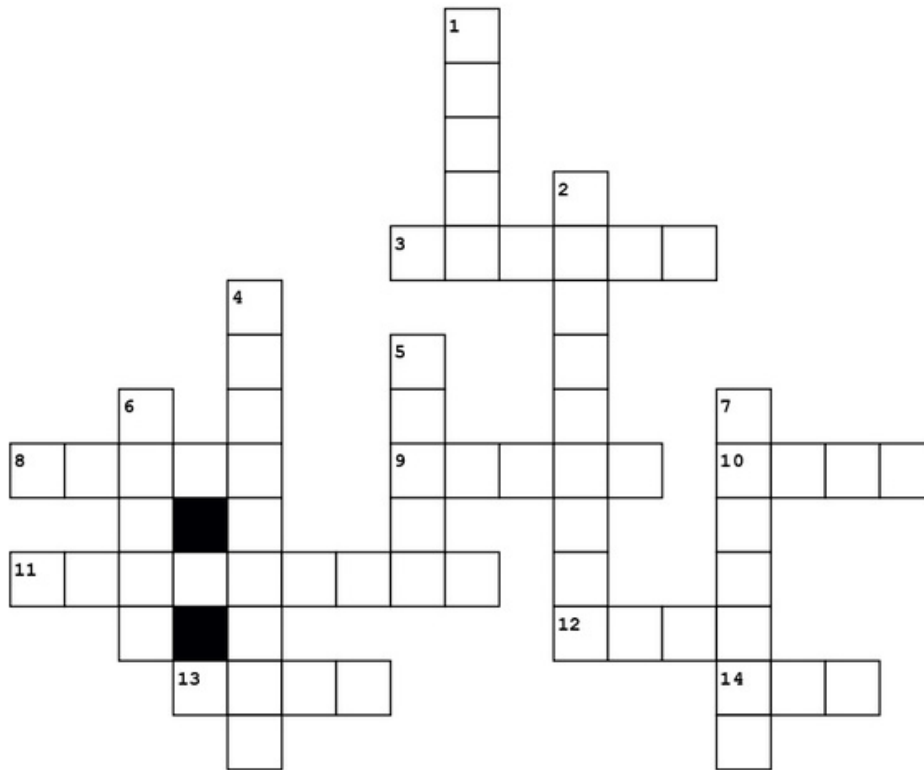
~Geeta Menezes

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

When Christ Jesus becomes the reason
Truly special will be that season
Three Kings march their way
In search of the glowing star's rays
Santa with gifts, watches from some corner
The Elves come out with honor
Jingle bell Rhymes open up spaces
Old familiar carols resonate in many ways
Awesomely bright nights
Trees glowing with lights
People confess silently their heart's burden
Bow before the Creator of the garden
Young and old gear up to cheer with pleasure
Season wraps up families together
Time to cherish grandma's signature platter
Along with wine and coffee to stay hotter
Such feelings none could resist
For its Christ Jesus in our midst
Christmas season truly special to believe
For it also ushers the spirit of the New Year eve....

Joyce DMello

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Across

- 3. The liturgical season heralding the birth of Jesus
- 8. After the birth of Jesus, the Holy Family escaped to this place
- 9. An told the shepherds the good news of Jesus' birth
- 10. The prophetess that the Holy Family met when presenting Jesus at the temple
- 11. The profession of Jesus' father, Joseph
- 12. The wise men, who following a star, travelled to see Baby Jesus
- 13. A royal gift brought by the wise men
- 14. A diminutive creature who acts as a helper of Santa Claus

Down

- 1. This King was a threat to the life of Baby Jesus
- 2. The town where Baby Jesus was born
- 4. A sprig of leaves and cluster of berries used as Christmas decor
- 5. One of the titles of Jesus, 'Prince of'
- 6. A gift brought by the wise men
- 7. The archangel who announced to Mary that she would bear the Son of God

(Answers on Pg No.20)

Mission Fete: A Journey from Preparation to Celebration

In the heart of Borivali, on the grounds of St. John Bosco Church, a mission took shape with a noble purpose—to raise funds for the Manipur youths lodging, boarding, and training. The Mission Fete, carefully planned and executed, unfolded as a remarkable event uniting the community for a greater cause.

30th September - 1st Meeting: Laying the Foundation

The first meeting set the stage for Mission Fete. Financial arrangements were meticulously discussed and finalized, ensuring a solid foundation for the upcoming event. Plans for an emotive appeal were put in place, with actual images enhancing the presentation. Strategies for larger donations were explored, including targeted appeals to overseas workers and migrants. The groundwork for stalls, menus, and logistics began, promising a comprehensive and well-organized event.

7th October - 2nd Meeting: Building Momentum

As the second meeting approached, momentum built with the distribution of lucky draw tickets and appeal letters. Saree auction details were discussed, adding an exciting element to the fundraising efforts. The involvement of 21 members showcased a growing community commitment to the mission.

14th October - 3rd Meeting: Fine-Tuning the Details

With 21 members actively participating, the third meeting brought finalization to crucial aspects. Food items for the event were decided, and plans for the submission of collections for the lucky draw were confirmed. The timing for key events, including the Saree Auction and Lucky Draw, was carefully discussed, ensuring a smooth flow of activities on Saturday and Sunday.

21st October - 4th Meeting: Delegating Responsibilities

In the penultimate meeting, zones were assigned tasks related to dishes, pricing, and the collection of lucky draw coupons. Collection updates were seamlessly handed over to the finance committee, demonstrating effective communication within the organizing team. The emphasis on non-duplication of food items and reasonable pricing highlighted the commitment to offering a diverse and accessible range of products.

27th October - Final Preparations: Bringing it all Together

In the final preparations leading up to Mission Sunday, packing materials were distributed, and additional supplies were brought in. Ground and pandal arrangements were surveyed, ensuring a visually appealing and functional setup. Zonal banners, stall numbers, and menu banners were strategically placed, creating an inviting atmosphere for attendees.

Celebration - Mission Sunday: A Triumph of Community Spirit

Mission Sunday dawned with the aroma of delicious food wafting through the air. Various zones showcased their culinary talents and displayed their delightful food in the stalls, while youth and Sunday school children added to the festivities with game stalls and karaoke. The success of Mission Fete was evident, with financial goals met through donations, lucky draw, auctions and collection on the stalls.

Positive feedback poured in, acknowledging the emotive appeal and thoughtful pricing that characterized the event. The seamless organization of stalls, events, and logistics garnered appreciation, and Mission Fete emerged not just as a fundraiser but as a testament to the community's spirit and support for mission activities.

In conclusion, Mission Fete stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared purpose. Beyond the funds raised, it fostered a sense of unity, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those who participated. The success of Mission Fete echoes the potential for positive change that can be realized when a community rallies behind a noble cause.

PAST QUARTER EVENTS



Our Altar Servers have once again won two prizes out of 5 at Matunga at the Rally. The other 3 awards were won by other parishes - 1 each.

Last year we had won 6 prizes at the Rally, the highest amongst every other Parish present there.

Today we were 31 of them and all of them have witnessed a beautiful spiritual and fun-filled experience.

We thank Father Solomon Rapol our Spiritual Director for his all time support in encouraging our Altar Servers to attend the Rally.

We thank Father Mario for conducting the sessions and for supporting our Altar Servers.

Thank you,

Vina Prabhu
Altar Servers Coordinator

8:07 PM ✓

[6:25 PM, 11/19/2023] Confo 2020 – Nathan Sequeira: Good evening everyone, As we all know today was our altar servers rally 2023. I would love to take our moment to specially thank our parish priest, Rev. Fr. Solomon Rapol and our assistant parish priest, Rev. Fr. Mario Vaz, our main animator Miss Vina who made us perfect with the most wonderful skit: The divine companions along with the animators. The Don Bosco Borivali have achieved 2 spot prizes out of 5 spot prizes. The Don Bosco Borivali even were spontaneous in answering the additional questions who were asked by the teachers in the parish. Once again a big thank you for everyone to be patient and helping towards us. [7:50 PM, 11/19/2023] Confo 2020 – Nathan Sequeira: I would love to thank our fathers and animators about the food and drinks that we were served in the bus during our joyful journey and the breakfast, lunch and snacks that was served today in the church of Matunga. Once again I thank each one for the wonderful day and our Spiritual Directors of our parish priest Fr. Solomon & assistant Fr. Marrio and animators that made this day. Also would like to thank Fr. Leon, Fr. Velasli, Fr. Godfrey for the spiritual guidance.

On 19th November 2023, we had an altar servers rally in Don Bosco Matunga. Around 250 altar servers had attended this rally. 30 altar servers were from our parish. This was my 2nd joyful experience. The spiritual directors were very kind to share about the life of saints. We even learnt about being faithful, cheerful, humble and grateful for the gifts which God has given us. They discussed about the casket of the priests, significance of priests and altar servers, the chalice which was used in French Revolution and Jesus's blood was mixed in it. We also enjoyed the games, activities and the performances of other parishes. We were acknowledged about Jesus's blood group and various vessels used at the altar during the mass. I thank each one of them who were part of this rally. It was indeed a joyful experience.

Name: Neal Sequeira
Class: IX
Parish: Don Bosco Borivali

Solomon Rapol

Good morning Vina, the Animators Martin, Asher, Divya, Stephen, Jason, Austin and others and You my dear Altar Servers,
Thanks for going for the Rally and participating in it.
I Thank God for the Wonderful Altar Servers and the Animators.
I Thank fr Mario for being with you in the Rally.
I Thank Vina Prabhu and Martin for All the work and the arrangements.
Congratulations and God bless

8:03 AM

AS 2022 - Shawn Alvares

The altar servers rally which was on 19th November was a wonderful experience. In this rally I learnt how to serve God in a better manner. It taught me that Jesus is in the form of priest and the altar servers are the angels during mass.

12:38 PM

New MHB B - Johnson Soares

The altar servers rally was an amazing experience for me. I experienced and learnt new things about Jesus and altar serving. The program was very well organised. I thank God and everyone who were part of this wonderful Altar server rally. Thank you 🙏

12:45 PM

FHC 2019-20 James Alphonse

The altar servers rally which was on 19th November was a beautiful experience for me. I learnt more new things about God and how to behave in altar when I'm serving to God. Thank Vina ma'am fr. Solomon fr. Mario and all the animators. I will look forward to see many more rally in my future..thank you it's a great and awesome experience I had and I enjoyed a lot. thank u once again...

12:58 PM

FHC 2019-20

The Altar server rally was a good experience, In this rally I learnt that How to serve God and in a good manner of begin a Altar server. Thank you Vina Miss, Fr. Solomon Rapol, Fr. Mario Vaz and all the volunteers to support and guideness, I enjoyed a lot. Thanks for everything.

Edited 2:49 PM

Ethan Khandekar

Alter serving rally is a good experience we get to learn about God

Thank you to all the people who helped us

5:15 PM

AS - Michael Eric Francis Pillai

We get to know more about God and from this we come closer to God. Thanks to all member and volunteers who supported and helped us in everything. It was a good experience

7:32 PM

Forwarded

The Altar servers rally that was held on Sunday 19 November the theme of this rally was BE HOLY BE ORIGINAL which Pope Francis told the Altar servers. It was a day full of excitement, learning new things, games, skits, dancing and singing And ending our rally by attending the holy mass, which was celebrated by the provincial Fr. Savio Silveira and served by the 4 children from Don Bosco Borivali. We thank our parish priest Rev. Fr. Solomon and asst. parish priest Fr. Mario Vaz. I would like to thank Miss Vina Prabhu and Martin Fernandes and also our senior alter serves Austin, Asher, Divya, Vinay, Genesis, Jason And Stephen. I would thank the DBYS team for making all the arrangements and thank the parishioners for keeping us in their prayers.

Ureila Corda

8:02 PM ✓

Altar Servers Rally - 19.11.2023



Altar Servers Rally 2023



VOICE MANIA

The Parish Family Sings together.

Voice Mania is one of the most awaited events of the parish calendar. It is one event where all music lovers of the parish come together and showcase their voices to compete to win the most prestigious title of the year.

The Family Cell brain stormed for a whole 3 months in planning the categories, criteria, budgeting, promotions, advertising, and not forgetting the menu for cafeteria that was to be prepared for the day.

The event was scheduled for 5th November 2023. The announcements were read & the promo video was projected during the Sunday masses, banner was displayed in the church premises, entry forms were distributed to the youth, choir members, Senior citizens and music lovers.

The D-day arrived and all the preparations were in full swing. The Family Cell appointed 2 neutral judges for the event. We had Bro. Ignatius Pramod and Mrs. Jovita D'mello, to be our honoured judges. The members of the cell punched their cards early in the evening setting up the music table, food stalls and the registration desk. The event started dot at 6.30 p.m. as the contestants and the music lovers flocked in to the venue to have a gala time.

The first category to set the ball rolling was the Senior Citizens, who always come in large numbers & participate in the event. Mr. Dennis Fernandes won the title in this Category. The second category was the Family based Category known as Tara Rum Pum group. Unfortunately, we did not have any entries under this category. The third category was the Secret Super Stars in the age group of 14 plus where we had two strong groups competing each other i.e Sunday school childrens' choir known as 'Earthly Echoes' and parish youth group 'DBYM' . It was a tough decision to judge the winner, but the Earthly Echoes were declared winners. The last group was the zonal category 'Maha Sangram' where two zones Chickoowadi i.e. ' Our Lady of Mercy' and Gorai-2 'St. Martin De Porres' competed against again each to win the zonal title.

The judges found it quite difficult to decide the winner. Gorai 2 zone was adjudged the winner under the category by merely a point and Chickoowadi had to settle for second place. As the marks were collated, Fr. Aloysius Furtado gave a power punched performance for all the music lovers gathered for the program.

We thank our parish team Fr. Solomon Rapol, Fr. Diego Nunes, Fr. Flovi Dsouza, Fr. Mario Vaz and Fr. Aloo for extending their unending support to Family Cell in organizing various events for the parish.

- Veena Fernandes



Long Live Christ the King!

On 26 November 2023, the Church celebrated the Solemnity of Christ the King. This feast, celebrated on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, reminds the faithful that in every time and age and over all situations, Jesus Christ reigns supreme.

At St Dominic Savio Parish, Wadala, the feast was celebrated with the theme 'Jesus Christ, Our Servant Leader'. From 10:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., parishioners engaged in community-wise adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. At 5 p.m., following the Tamil Mass, the first benediction took place in the church compound, in the presence of about 600 people. The premises wore a festive look, thanks to the decorations put up by the youth.

Fr Gregory D'Cunha preached in Hindi, while Fr. Bastin Thomas preached in Marathi. The solemn aarti honouring the Blessed Sacrament was led by children before the procession. The procession proceeded to the Euress housing complex, where the second benediction was held. Here, Fr Kenneth Pereira, the Parish Priest, preached the homily in English. The residents of Euress had beautifully prepared the stage and the altar and animated the singing for this part of the programme.

The procession gave the parishioners an occasion to manifest to the general public their devotion and loyalty to Christ. Even along this route, at four different points, people came forward to perform aarti before the Blessed Sacrament that was being carried under a canopy. Despite unseasonal rain during the programme, the people went on enthusiastically, glorifying Jesus with hymns in different languages and with showers of flower petals all along the way.

The procession ended at St Anthony's Chapel, where Fr John Samuel preached in Tamil. After the benediction, the people went home not just with the boiled grams that were distributed but also with amazing memories of the festive celebration.

A similar celebration of the feast was held at St John Bosco Parish, Borivli. The adoration from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., was an occasion for individuals to spend quiet moments in contemplation and prayer. The Confirmation candidates led the congregation in the heartfelt recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m. which was followed by the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr Solomon Rapol, the Parish Priest. After Mass, the solemn procession honouring Christ the King wound its way through the streets of Borivli. The Blessed Sacrament, gracefully adorned on an elaborately decorated jeep, became the focal point of the procession.

The Feast of Christ the King was indeed a moment of spiritual grace, as it was an occasion to celebrate Jesus' divine kingship.

-Martin Fernandes



PAST QUARTER EVENTS



Birthstone

-25th October 2023 – Gabriel Robin Swamy – Born to Robin Francis Swamy & Priyanka Pratap Swar from Gorai 1

Milestones

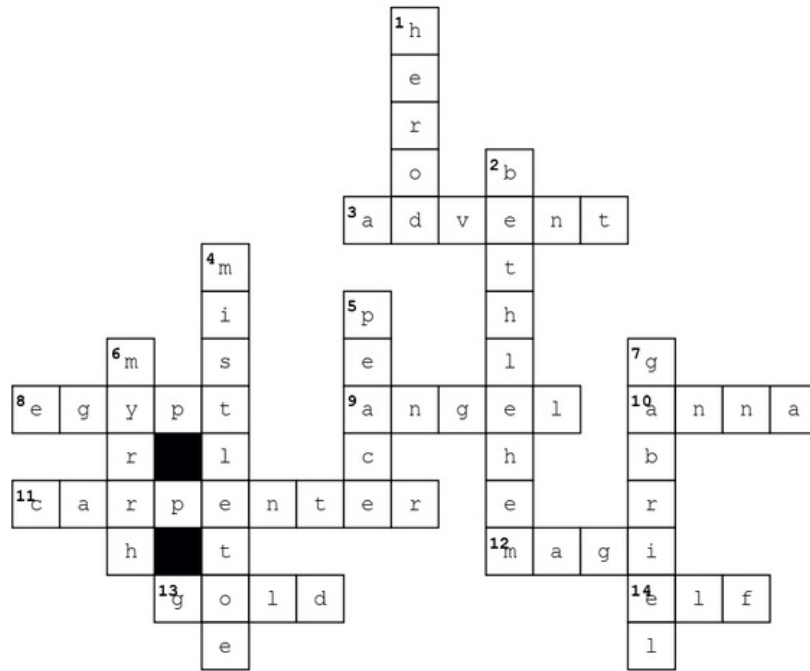
- 30th December 2023 – Freesty Alice Pinto & Oriston Daniel Pinto
- 29th December 2023 – Aakash D'souza & Shannon D'silva
- 23rd December 2023 – Roland Soares & Anoushka Fernandes
- 23rd December 2023 – Lavina Saldanha & Lanster Fernandes
- 23rd December 2023 – Reuel Cardozo & Kimberley D'souza
- 2nd December 2023 – Jennifer Gonsalves & Jason Fernandes
- 10th December 2023 – Rudolph D'souza & Simran Rose
- 12th December 2023 – Monty Tellis & Diksha Punjabi
- 09th December 2023 – Rahul Oswald Coutinho & Manasi Pradhan
- 03rd December 2023 – Alexander James & Evita Xavier
- 03rd December 2023 – Dominic Dsouza & Jessica Dsouza
- 02nd December 2023 – Ramson Fernandes & Rose Devika
- 25th November 2023 – Francis Jude Pereira & Maybelle Stephanie Fernandes
- 11th November 2023 – Christon Victor Dsilva & Scarishma Sharon Susan
- 11th November 2023 – Jayesh Dsouza & Michelle Andrew
- 11th November 2023 – Sunny Mascarenhas & Suzzette Jean Miranda

Tombstones

- Mr. Augustine Pinto from Gorai 2D zone passed away on 29th October 2023
- Mr. Martin Muclar from New MHB zone passed away on 9th December 2023

SR NO,	NAME	AMOUNT
1	Martin and Nirmala Almeida	1000
2	Anonymous	1000

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Across

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- 7. The archangel who announced to Mary that she would bear the Son of God

Each one of us can make a difference by contributing to BOSCO BEAMS and keep it beaming!

Bosco Beams is our St John Bosco parish quarterly e-bulletin. This e-bulletin shall be circulated by the parish office through the community/zonal leaders, PPC members and parish association office bearers via/on WhatsApp.

‘ARTICLES’ Parishioners are welcome to contribute by 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 the 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 (95947 80039) & John Fernandes (97025 87760)

‘ADVERTISEMENTS & DONATIONS’ 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. Surplus income proceeds from the Advertisements and Donations shall be transferred to Parish Renovation Account.

Contact for subscription of Advertisements/Donations -Michelle Chawla (95946 02277) & Joavna Rodrigues (91674 52287)

You can email us: beamsbosco@gmail.com

Fr Solomon Rapol, SDB
Rector & Parish Priest