



BOSCO BEAMS

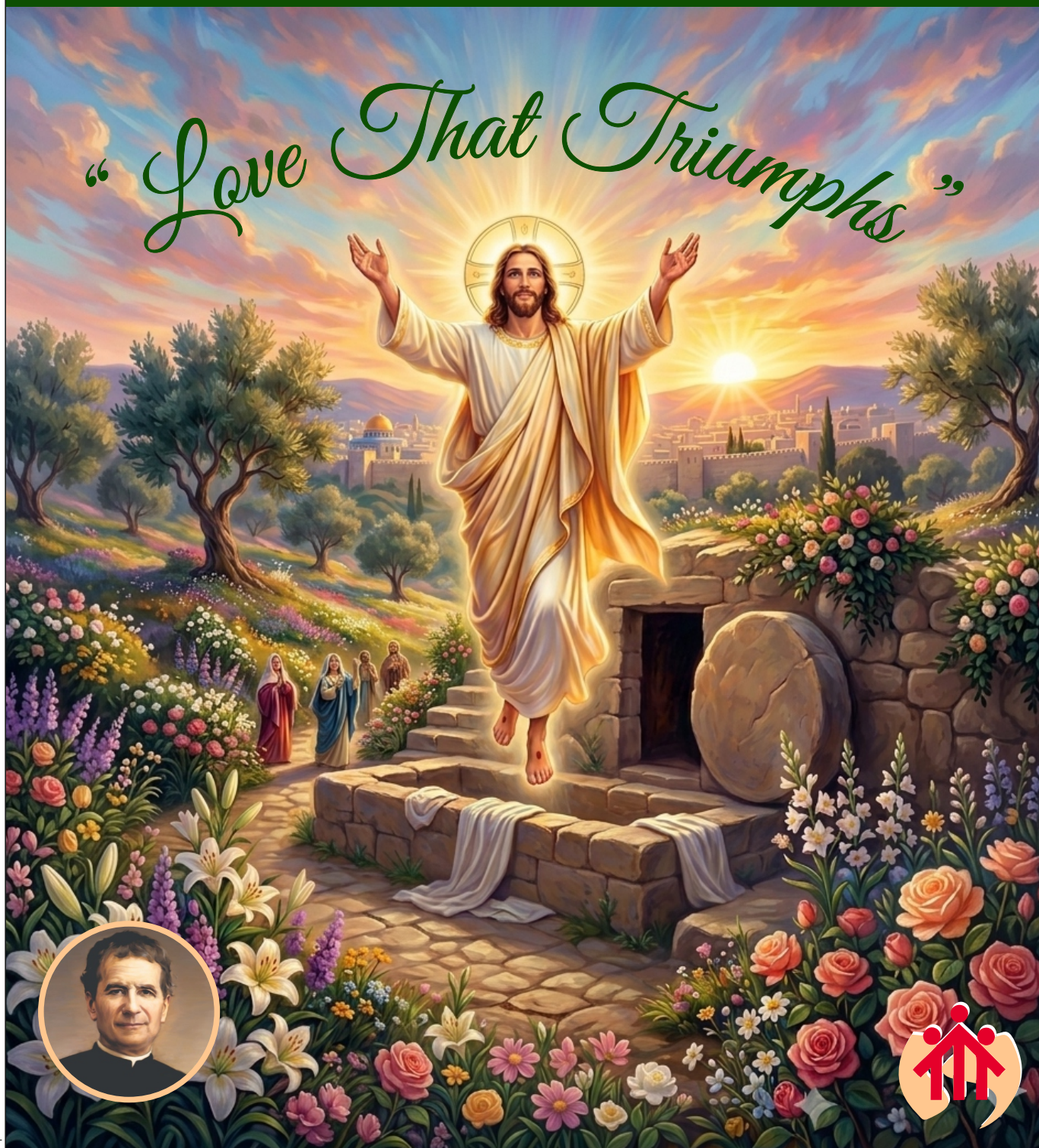
St. John Bosco Church | Parish Bulletin

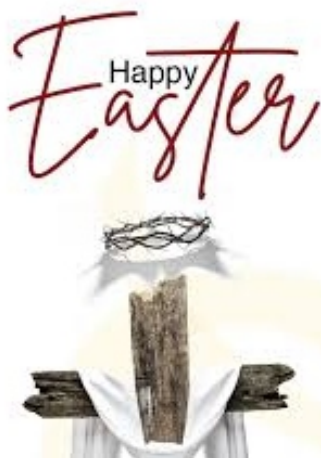
Private Circulation

Parish E-Bulletin

April 2026

“Love That Triumphs”





Editorial Team

Fr. Manuel Murzello

Fr. Vishal Lopes

Geeta Menezes

Joyce D'mello

Michelle Chawla

Vina Prabhu

Melvin George

Rebecca Dias

Melrina Mascarenhas

Dear brothers and sisters in the Risen Lord,

We have completed our journey of 40 days through Lent and now we celebrate the triumphant victory of Jesus over sin and death. This is the landmark victory of Jesus for all of us who believe in Jesus, who is the resurrection and life. Victory was the message of the risen Lord to his disciples on Easter Sunday morning.

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us reflect on the love and sacrifice that He showed us. "He is not here, he has risen, just as he had said" (Mt. 28/6). Through His resurrection, Jesus conquered death and gave us hope for eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3/16)

Let us strive to be instruments of God's unity and love, spreading His message to all. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and Holy Spirit" (Mt. 28/19)

May the Risen Christ bless you and your families this Easter season. May His resurrection inspire us to live with purpose and faith filled life.

Sincerely Yours in the Risen Lord.

Manuel Murzello, SDB



"A SMALL CHURCH WITHIN ONE'S ZONE"

The season of Lent calls the faithful to forgive, repent, fast, and alms-giving. However, this year our parishioners witnessed a home-based Church experience.

Following a directive from Archbishop Rev. John Rodrigues to conduct elections for new Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) members for the term 2026–29, our parish began this important process in early March 2026. The elections encompassed all 34 zones, marking a significant step in strengthening our community's pastoral leadership.

Under the guidance of Fr. Manuel Murzello, Parish Priest and Fr. Vishal Lopes, Administrator, the election process for new PPC members in each zone was rooted through prayer and integrity. For nearly three weeks, evening meetings were hosted in the homes of parishioners across the zones, drawing large gatherings so that consensus could be reached in electing a representative for each zone. Fr. Manuel shared the guidelines for electing PPC members and emphasized the importance of the Small Christian Community (SCC) in each zone to foster spiritual growth. He urged parishioners—especially the youth—to take up this responsibility without any inhibition.



During the meeting, parishioners elected a PPC member to represent their zone. Through this consultative process, a new leader was chosen. Each appointed leader was then asked to select five core members for their zone, which provided a clear vision for the SCC, and fostered the experience of having "A small Church within one's zone."

We extend heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Manuel and Fr. Vishal for dedicating their time during the election process, despite other responsibilities.

-Joyce Dmello

Life is short and the road is long,
but we all have to trod and move along.
We all have to walk till we reach our goal.
We all have to brave the storm and cold.
No bridge or mountain is easy to climb,
but we must move on or be left behind.

-Debbie Gomes



Lenten Visit to Sneha Sagar Aged Home and Ankur Children's Home A DAY OF LOVE, JOY AND REFLECTION

On 22nd March 2026, the youth of our Parish organized meaningful and heartfelt visits to Sneha Sagar Aged Home and Ankur Children's Home in Mira Road East, Thane. This visit was not just an outreach activity, but a day filled with emotions, learning, and unforgettable experiences that touched every heart present there.

Our first visit was to Sneha Sagar Aged Home, where we met the elderly who welcomed us with love and open hearts. This visit was very emotional and touching. We spent time talking to them, listening to their stories, and simply being present with them. One message that deeply touched all of us was shared by one of the grandmothers there. She said, "in old age, children are the ones parents look and wait for. We don't need your money, all we need is your love, care and affection." This message truly touched our hearts and made us reflect on our own families and the importance of spending time with our parents and grandparents.

Our second visit was to Ankur Children's Home, which is home to around 160 girls. We were welcomed with bright smiles, excitement, and warmth from the children. We spent time playing games, talking, laughing, and interacting with them. What we experienced there was something very deep — the children taught us that happiness does not depend on how much we have, but on how much we appreciate what we have. Their ability to smile, laugh, and enjoy the smallest moments made us realize that in our busy lives, we have forgotten to enjoy the small joys just like we did when we were children. Their joy was simple, pure, and genuine, and it reminded us to be grateful for the little things in life.

We would like to sincerely thank all the parishioners of St. John Bosco Parish for their generosity and support. The parishioners contributed groceries for Sneha Sagar Aged Home and also gave donations, through which we were able to purchase books for the children at Ankur Children's Home. Both Sneha Sagar Aged Home and Ankur Children's Home expressed their heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the love, kindness, and generosity shown by our parish community.

This visit was a day filled with mixed emotions — reflection and emotional moments with the elderly, and joy and laughter with the children. In one place we experienced the deep need for love, care, and companionship, and in the other we experienced happiness and innocence. Both places taught us very important life lessons that we will carry with us forever.

As youth of St. John Bosco Parish, this visit helped us understand the importance of compassion, love, and presence. Sometimes, the greatest gift we can give someone is not money or things, but our time, our presence, and our love.

This visit was not just a social activity, but a life-changing experience for many of us. It reminded us that we are called not only to pray, but also to serve, to love, and to be there for those who need us the most.

"We went there thinking we would bring joy to them, but in return, they taught us the true meaning of joy, love, and life."

-Don Bosco Youth





Love Rooted in the Trinity

Love that rises is a love that lifts the human heart from the ordinary to the divine. Its deepest source is the mystery of the Holy Trinity—the eternal communion of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Within this divine relationship we discover that love is not merely a feeling but a gift of self, freely given and endlessly shared.

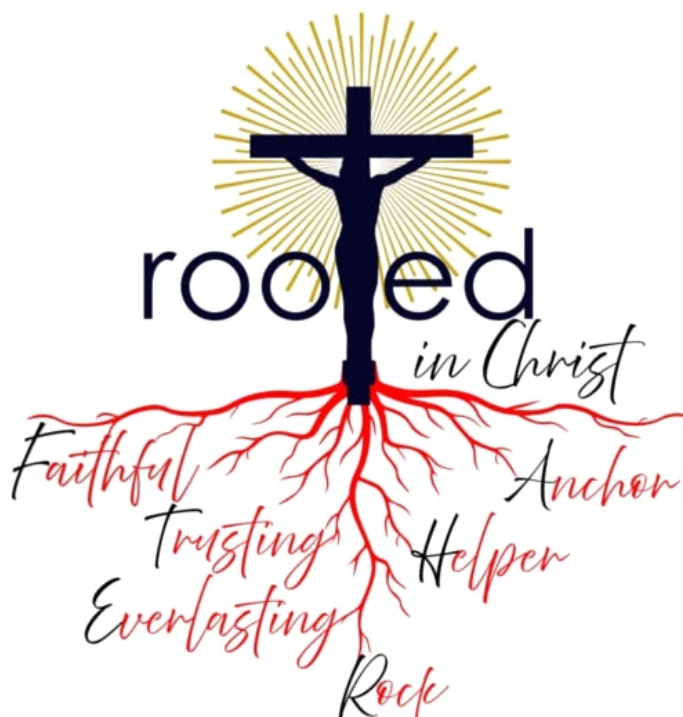
This love becomes visible to humanity in Jesus Christ. His life reveals love that serves, forgives, and sacrifices. On the cross, Jesus shows that true love rises above suffering and hatred. It does not seek power or recognition; instead, it offers mercy and redemption. His resurrection reminds us that love rooted in God can never be defeated.

Beside Him stands Mary, the humble mother who said “yes” to God with complete trust. Mary's love is quiet yet powerful. Through her obedience and tenderness, she teaches that love grows through humility, faith, and surrender to God's will. She becomes a model of how human love can reflect divine grace.

When we allow our hearts to be shaped by the Trinity, guided by Jesus, and inspired by Mary, our love begins to rise. It rises above selfishness, fear, and division. It becomes patient, forgiving, and compassionate.

Such love does more than comfort; it transforms. It builds families, heals wounds, and brings people closer to God. In this way, love that rises becomes a living reflection of heaven on earth.

-Glen Colaco





LOVE THAT SUFFERS, LOVE THAT TRIUMPHS

He travelled the dusty roads of Galilee,
His final destination – the Mount of Calvary.
Teaching people about love and faith through parables,
Healing the sick and crippled, performing miracles.

Jesus showed only love, mercy and compassion,
From his birth to his crucifixion, resurrection and ascension.
Fulfilling His Father's promise and true to plan,
He, the divine, came down to earth and became man.
Lived among us and taught us how to live,
To love God and neighbour, to have mercy and forgive.

While carrying the cross, three times he fell, tortured and spent,
But rose up each time, even though in pain and torment.
For our sins, a crown of thorns, a heavy tree,
Where love is nailed for you and me.

Love for us sustained Him through the suffering,
Eternal joy brought to us by His death and rising.
Love that triumphs, strengthens the soul to grow,
Turns deepest shadow to light's glow.
It triumphs death, it rises past fear,
Because it holds the good, and holds it dear.

~ Geeta Menezes

ANGER

Anger does no good—only harm,
It causes bitterness and alarm.
Leaving shadows filled with gloom,
Spreading negativity in the room.
It breaks hearts and clouds the mind,
Relationships fade in record time.
Anger is a fiery, burning coal,
Consuming pain as it takes its toll.
Anger does not make you great,
It only shows a troubled state.
Anger scorches till the end,
So do not let it rule you, my friend.

-Debbie Gomes



WHY DO WE COMPLICATE OUR SIMPLE LIVES?

In his book WALDEN, Henry David Thoreau wrote: Our life is frittered away by details ---- SIMPLIFY, SIMPLIFY, SIMPLIFY. He actually meant it and did it. He gave up his city house, lived in a small cabin on the banks of the WALDEN, grew his own food, and spent his time reading, writing and thinking. He was so caught up in other people's urgency, that his own life was slipping past him. This was as far back as 1845. If he ran away from distraction in 1845, what has that to say about us?

Our present world is engineered to say that we are always lacking, we are always behind. There is always a new skill to learn. In our households and schools, we are constantly bombarded with words like: STUDY HARD, GET INTO A GOOD COLLEGE, GET A GOOD JOB etc. But is all this what WE actually want, or is this what others want of us? Thoreau is asking us an uncomfortable question: "Whose list is this?" Our mental clutter impacts our lives heavily. We are constantly asking ourselves, "Am I doing enough?"

Our simplicity lies in carrying only what is ours to carry. The CLUTTER that exhausts most of us is in our heads. Our simplicity should be a simplicity of seeing things clearly. Our source of constant anxiety and worrying is a voice in our heads which is always judging, complaining, criticizing about what comes next. We try to stop worrying by worrying about our worries. Thus, we end up getting angry with ourselves and about ourselves. Simplicity is not about having our own clean, clear, quiet rooms, but it's about our lived experiences. When we find some things TOO HARD, just SET IT ASIDE. It's not about escaping, it's just about not wasting our energies on things beyond us. Decide on what matters.

C. Honore, a Canadian journalist, writes:

- In an age of speed, nothing could be more invigorating than going slow.
- In an age of distraction, nothing can feel more luxurious than paying attention.
- In an age of constant movement, nothing is more urgent than sitting still.

When we are not decided, everything feels like it needs our attention. But when we have completely decided, all else in our minds disappear. We keep our options open. All along we are trying to convince other people about ourselves rather than convincing ourselves about our true selves. Complexity in our lives is built by us PIECE BY PIECE. We are to choose our lives rather than flow with the currents in our peer groups, families, etc. We allow ourselves to be carried by that current and call it OUR LIFE, when actually it is not. We should stop, plant our feet on the ground and honestly ask ourselves: "Is this actually me? Is this what I want?"

We should have an honest audit about our commitments. Write down everything we have been doing, every obligation we have, everything we have said YES to. We should ask ourselves, "If I was to start afresh today, would I actually choose this?" We find some things pass easily whereas some things are carried down by habit, guilt, fear or what people will think. Our complex lives add anxiety.



SIMPLICITY is not something we have to achieve, but it's more a DIRECTION, rather than flowing with the current. We should have the ability to move through the complicated road without having to carry things that are not ours. Constantly ask ourselves, "What is actually mine? What must I give up?"

To conclude,

- A. Declutter your space.
- B. Focus on our own experiences over the opinions of others.
- C. Practice mindfulness.
- D. Set boundaries.

Life is too short, not to soak in the moments, right?

In conclusion, I quote the first two lines of the poem by W H Davies:

"What life is this, if full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare."

-Desmond D'Cunha.

GOD'S INFINITE LOVE

God so loved this world
He gave His only beloved son
To live with His people on this earth
Born in Bethlehem in a stable at birth.

Lived with Mary and Joseph, as a carpenter's son
Spreading God's word to everyone
To tell the people we are God's creation
To live a life of love, care and devotion.

But the people in power did not like to see
The multitudes gathering with Jesus to be
So made false allegations and condemned him
To the most cruel death by their schemes.

He was brutally scourged at the pillar
Crowned with thorns, mocked and spat upon
Made to carry the heavy cross to Calvary
Where He was nailed, hanged to die thereon.

Even in His agony He said, "Father forgive them, they know not what they are doing"
His disciple near the cross He said to Mary, "Behold thy son"
Thus opening the gates of heaven to every repentant.

-Bina Velloz



MAHARASHTRA FREEDOM OF RELIGION ACT 2026 (MFRA) – NECESSITY OR PLAYING TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY?

Maharashtra has now become the '13th state' in India to carry forward the legacy of Odisha, which was the first to pass a Freedom of Religion Act. The other states are Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan.

Statement of Objects

As per the Statement of Objects, MFRA is founded on three major grounds:

1. Constitutional rights of Freedom of Religion are 'subject to public order'.
2. “Existing laws are not sufficient to tackle various issues arising out of religious conversions.”
3. “Many instances of mass conversion have come to light” where 'gullible persons' have been “forcefully converted” to another religion by using allurements of different kinds.

My Stand

- On ground 1, I do not wish to quarrel.
- Ground 2 does not convince me.
- I am amused at the third ground – many instances of forcible mass conversions.





I have lived in this state continuously since 1990 (not counting the period from 1971–1976). In all these years, I have come across no more than two incidents – one in Bhiwandi (October 2025) and the other in Pune (July 2025). Do these stray instances make “many instances of forceful conversions”?

Will the Chief Minister, being the initiator of MFRA, give specific instances of the so-called many mass forcible conversions? If he is unable to do so, isn't this false propaganda by the Chief Executive of the State? Such assertions give rise to false pretensions which lead to social unrest and communal hatred. Therefore, can it not be termed as an act 'promoting hatred between religious communities' by the Chief Minister?

What Do the Statistics Tell Us? It is human and reasonable to assume that many instances of mass forceful conversions would have greatly increased the Christian population. Do the census figures support this?

Conviction Rate vs Allegations:

- Uttar Pradesh: 1 conviction (2020–2024)
- Madhya Pradesh: 7 convictions (2020–2025)
- Maharashtra: Not a single conviction under IPC for forceful conversions.

This suggests that unsubstantiated and unproved allegations of mass conversions are nothing but playing with the sentiments of the gullible majority community for narrow, selfish ends – a tool to harass the minority Christian community both mentally and physically. It is ironic that on the day the Maharashtra State Assembly passed the 'Freedom of Religion Act 2026' with its draconian provisions, the Supreme Court was engaged in quashing a forceful conversion case against a father and son duo, quoting the Fatehpur judgment wherein the accused were tried under similar charges based on 'third-party complaints' and exonerated.

Demographic Reality

The religious community most accused of forceful religious conversions is Christians. If “mass forceful conversions” had taken place since the adoption of our Constitution, it is reasonable and logical to believe that the Christian population by now ought to have increased by huge numbers.

- 1950 (Post-Constitution): 84.1% Hindus, 9.8% Muslims, 2.3% Christians, 1.9% Sikhs, 1.9% others.
- 2011 Census: Christian population remained static at 2.3%.
- Pew Research Center (2010–2050 projections): Hindus to 130 crores (growth of 3.3%); Christians to 3.7 crores (growth of 1.8%).

Maharashtra Figures

- 1961 Census: 560,294 Christians (1.41% of 39,553,718)
- 2011 Census: 1,080,073 Christians (0.96% of 112,374,333)



Conclusion

Where are the forceful conversions? Where is the need to pass the so-called “Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act”?

My Question: Is the Maharashtra State Freedom of Religion Bill a necessity or playing to the public gallery?

Statistics convince me that it is the latter.

Raphael D'Souza
(Advocate, High Court)

HOW GREEN IS YOUR GARDEN?



Spring is here! New Life! Gardening is one of the most fulfilling activities. Creating a green oasis in your flat requires thinking out-of-the-box. Key strategies include utilizing vertical spaces, adapting to the summer heat and humid monsoon. Some tips to go green:

- Go vertical: Use wall-mounted planters, vertical racks, hanging planters from ceiling hooks, to maximise floor space.
- Hang planters on balcony railings, window grilles to plant herbs and greens, like mint, coriander, basil.
- Use sunlight coming from East, West, South or North to determine which plant to be placed where, or use ambient light.
- If lacking a balcony, focus on low-light indoor plants like pothos, moneyplants, snakeplants, spiderplants, aglaonema, succulents, microgreens.
- Use 5-6 inches pots for smaller plants, 10-12 inches pots for larger plants.
- Ensure pots have adequate drainage holes to prevent waterlogging and root rot.
- Mix your potting soil with cocopeat, vermicompost, sand or perlite.
- Water early morning or late evening to reduce evaporation. Watering plants is influenced by season and whether plants are outdoor or indoor. Generally, water only when the top 1-2 inches of soil is dry.
- Easy-to-use liquid organic fertilizer.
- Use neem oil spray or garlic-onion spray, to keep away pests.
- Source materials from local nurseries, or online websites - Ugao, Nurserylive, Amazon to find plants, seeds, pots, potting mixes, gardening tools.

Transform your living space into a lush paradise!

~Geeta Menezes



DISCERNMENT IN DAILY LIFE

We have come across people who love pets, and they look after them like their own children. There was once a man who had a pet bull dog, who fell ill. The man took him to the vet, who after examining the dog gave the man some liquid medicine to be given to the dog. On reaching home the man tried coaxing the dog so that he could put the medicine into its mouth but to no avail. He even tried using some force but the dog refused to take the medicine. In the process some of the medicine spilled on the floor. The dog saw it and went and lapped it up. Thus, the dog decided to take it on its own accord. Similarly, in life, no matter how much people try to impose things upon us, we must make our own decisions.

A car moving in one of the crowded streets of a city had this sticker on its back windscreen, 'YOUR HORN IS NOT MY ACCELERATOR.' Very true. We hear a lot of horns both good and bad all around us. We have to make our own decisions for our lives. Matthew 13:1-23 tells us about the Parable of the sower. This is a story of a farmer sowing seeds that fall on different types of soils, representing how different people respond differently to God's word. The seeds symbolize the message and soil represents our hearts. How do we respond? We must be like the 'good soil' : Receptive, Understanding and Fruitful. We must decide how we will respond to God's word. Will we let it take root, grow and bear fruit or will our hearts be like the rocky ground or thorny soil? It's about being open to God's word, nurturing our faith and letting it guide us.

In our daily lives, we see both good and bad things around us. Are we taking in what Jesus offers us or giving in to the Evil One? There are areas in our lives where Jesus tells us we have to work upon. But are we listening to His Word or wanting to have our own way? Today let us make a decision to change for the better. It's good to go to confession as we receive His forgiveness, but after that do we work upon at least one or two areas in our lives and try to improve ourselves, or do we go back to our old ways? When we listen to the Evil One we bring destruction upon ourselves.

To make decisions aligned with the Gospel values in our personal lives we must consider:

- 1) Prayer and reflection: Seek guidance of the HOLY SPIRIT and listen to our inner voice.
- 2) Scripture and teachings: Reflect on God's words and principles.
- 3) Seek counsel from others: Seek wisdom from trusted mentors in our community.
- 4) Discernment: Weigh options, considering what's truly good and right. It's about aligning choices with Love, Compassion, Forgiveness and Integrity.

May you find your path that resonates with your soul.Desmond D'Cunha.

EASTER: HOPE THAT STILL RISES

Easter is not just a festival we celebrate once a year; it is a reminder that hope can rise even from the darkest moments of life. In earlier days, Easter was deeply marked by prayer, fasting, family gatherings, and a strong sense of faith. Today, while celebrations may look different, the message of



Easter remains the same: love is stronger than suffering, and life overcomes death. Many people today carry silent struggles—loneliness, illness, financial worries, broken relationships, or loss of faith. Easter speaks directly to these hearts. It tells us that no situation is beyond God's power to renew. The Resurrection assures us that pain is not the final word.

A True Emotional Story: During the COVID pandemic, an elderly man named Joseph lived alone after losing his wife. Locked inside his small apartment, cut off from family and parish life, he slowly lost the joy of living. Easter came that year without church bells or celebrations. On Easter morning, a young parish volunteer knocked on his door and handed him a simple food packet and a small card that read: "Christ is risen. You are not alone." Joseph later shared that this small act brought him to tears. It was not the food, but the feeling of being remembered that healed his heart. That Easter did not change his circumstances overnight, but it changed his spirit. He felt hope rise again.

Reflection: Joseph's experience reminds us that Easter is not only about rituals; it is about resurrection moments we create for others. A kind word, a helping hand, a forgiving heart, or a silent prayer can bring new life to someone who feels forgotten. In a world often marked by noise, hurry, and indifference, Easter invites us to live differently—to be people of hope, compassion, and faith. When we choose love over anger, service over selfishness, and trust over fear, we become living witnesses of the Resurrection. May this Easter renew our hearts and help us become signs of hope in our homes, parishes, and society. Christ is risen—may His hope rise in us and through us.

Happy Easter!!Philip Pereira

LENT: A JOURNEY OF RENEWAL AND GRACE

True Meaning of Lent today:

Lent reminds us of the forty days Jesus Christ spent in prayer and fasting. Following His example, we too are called to pray more, make sacrifices, and help those in need. In today's busy world, Lent gives us a chance to slow down and reflect. It is not only about giving up something, but about growing closer to God and becoming more loving and compassionate. John Bosco said, "Do ordinary things with extraordinary love." Lent invites us to live this message through small acts of kindness, forgiveness, and service.

A Short Story: A Small Sacrifice

During Lent, a boy decided to spend less time on his phone and more time with his family. He helped at home, prayed daily, and spent time with his grandparents. By Easter, he felt happier and closer to God. His small sacrifice helped him discover the true joy of Lent.

Scripture Reflection: The Holy Bible reminds us: "Create in me a clean heart, O God." (Psalm 51:10). Lent is a time to renew our hearts and return to God with faith.

Prayer: Loving God, Help us during this Lenten season to pray with faith, to sacrifice with love, and to serve others with kindness. Renew our hearts and bring us closer to You. May we be prepared to celebrate Easter with joy. AMEN

Happy Easter!!Philip Pereira



LOVE THAT RISES: A CATHOLIC GUIDE TO DATING WITH PURPOSE

In a world of quick texts, fleeting connections, and “situationships,” Catholic dating invites something deeper- a love that rises. A love that doesn't just feel good in the moment, but leads you closer to God and your true calling.

It begins, not with the other person, but with Christ. “Seek first the Kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33). When your heart is anchored in Him, you stop looking for someone to complete you and start looking for someone to walk with you. Prayer, both personal and shared, becomes the quiet strength of your relationship.

Real love also honours dignity. Every person you date is made in God's image (Genesis 1:27). That means choosing respect over impulse, boundaries over confusion, and intention over convenience. The way you love should reflect the way Christ loves. Selfless, patient, and pure.

Honesty matters more than perfection. You don't need to have it all together. In fact, Ephesians 4:25 reminds us to live truthfully. Be real about your fears, your past, and your hopes. Authenticity builds something far more lasting than a polished façade.

And then, there is patience. Love is not rushed. “Love is patient; love is kind” (1 Corinthians 13). Let your relationship unfold gently. Give it time to grow, to be tested, and to be understood.

Above all, remember: dating is not just about finding love. It's about discerning it. Ask yourself often, Is this leading me closer to Christ?

Because the right love doesn't drain you, it raises you.

-Rebecca Fernandes

THE POTTER'S BROKEN JAR



Elias was once the most celebrated potter in his village. His clay pots were renowned for their beauty, strength and intricate designs. He took great pride in his craft. Over time, that pride turned into arrogance. He started rushing his work, ignoring the proper curing times for the clay and using inferior glazes to cut costs, eager to

produce more pots for more profit.



Soon after, a massive shipment of his jars intended for the regional market arrived, and most of the jars were broken or cracked. Customers were furious and demanded refunds. People scoffed at his shoddy craftsmanship and Elias' reputation was ruined. Depressed, he closed his workshop and became aloof. His mistakes seemed too heavy to carry and the fear of failing again paralyzed him.

One afternoon, his granddaughter brought him a small, battered pot he had made years ago. “Why



do you keep this?" he asked her, ashamed. "Because it's still useful Grandpa and it has character", she answered simply. Elias felt that the cracked pot was a mirror of his life. He realized that holding on to his shame was a greater mistake than the errors in his pottery.



The next morning, Elias went into the river, gathered fresh clay, and returned to his pottery wheel. At first, his hands shook and the pot became lopsided. Undeterred, he tried again. The pot cracked in the kiln. Elias did not give up. He analyzed what went wrong and started over.

He used the best clay, applied the slow, careful techniques, and embraced the lessons learned from his failure. Days later, he produced a new type of pottery - one that was stronger and more beautiful than before, born of experience and humility.

Elias learned that his mistakes did not define his future; they only refined his present.

KEY TAKEAWAY: No matter how many times we fall or make mistakes, resilience lies in the decision to rise from our falls, using the lessons of the past to build a stronger future.

NEWS ARTICLES

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL DAY – A REPORT

The Sunday School Annual Day was joyfully celebrated on 8th March 2026 with the enthusiastic participation of 98 children. The programme was conducted separately for the Junior and Senior



levels and featured three engaging events for each group.

At the Junior Level (Stds. I-IV), children participated in lively games such as Count & Connect, where they quickly formed number specific groups when the music stopped, Angel Says - a fun variation of



Simon Says, and Aim for the Evangelist a variation of the popular Bombing the City.

At the Senior Level (Std.V – Confirmation batch), children were randomly divided into four teams and took part in a Biblical Quiz, Word Trail, and a creative activity where teams draped a child in newspaper to depict Scripture Heroes and then enacted the role.

Our parish priest, Fr. Manuel joined the celebration and distributed prizes to the winners. Fr. Vishal also visited, and the children warmly sang the birthday song for him. The joyful morning of fun, games and fellowship concluded with snack boxes for all and cheerful group photographs.

- Sunday School

SALESIAN COOPERATORS' OUTREACH MISSION TO AHMEDNAGAR

Six Cooperators from our unit joined 50 Salesian Cooperators of the Mumbai Province for a two-day outreach mission from February 21st - 22nd, visiting parishes, rural missions, and social centers.



Fr. George, Rector of BGVK, welcomed the group with the traditional Tilak, Topi, and Uparna.

The team visited St. John's Church in Bhingar, St. Anne's Church in Ahilyanagar, and the rural missions of Ratadgaon and Kandka. Ratadgaon, home to 35 families, is supported through women's centers, balwadis, and water and livelihood projects. Catechist Mr. Yusuf





Thombe noted that educational outreach has improved school attendance. In Kandka, Cooperators met 52 Catholic families and 60 students, discussing challenges in health, education, finances, and travel.

A villager shared that “praying keeps them happy,” reflecting their strong faith. The trip included a visit to Pumpkin House orphanage, caring for 62 children.



The outreach concluded with Mass at Don Bosco Church, Savedi, where Fr. Diego thanked all for their support in cash and kind, and acknowledged those who attended, despite age and health challenges.

-Salesian Cooperators, Borivali Unit

LENTEN WAY OF THE CROSS AND HOLY MASS CELEBRATION EKSAR ZONE

To foster unity among members of Eksar – Zone A & B (St. Bonaventure) community clusters, and to encourage active participation in Lenten devotions, the members organized Stations of the Cross followed by Mass, on 3rd of March at Ahuja Towers Lobby.

The event saw a strong turnout of over 65 members (seniors, middle aged, youth and children) coming together as one community participating in the Holy Eucharist.

Way of the Cross was held at 6:15 pm. There was active participation in the Way of the Cross with our Zonal coordinators animating 14 stations. At every station, verses were recited, reflections made and prayers offered followed by hymns, making the Way of the Cross profoundly meaningful.

It was followed by the Holy Mass which was celebrated by Fr. Ranson. The liturgy was vibrant with a choir consisting of youth members leading the hymns. Based on the Gospel passage, the Celebrant explained the meaning of sacrifices expected from members of the Christian community during the season of Lent, such as fasting and alms giving, the correct way of making sacrifices versus the wrong way such as preaching to others and not practicing it.



The Mass was well attended by the community members reflecting a desire to unite interior devotion with the Eucharist.

The evening concluded with a vote of thanks, especially thanking the Priest, Fr. Ranson who celebrated the mass. Special thanks were expressed to the families of Ahuja Towers for providing the premises, making necessary arrangements including snacks and an excellent venue for prayer meeting which was lauded by all.

Also expressed sincere gratitude to the zonal committee heads Teena Dsouza and Sharon Pereira and all the committee members for their invaluable contribution and support by painstakingly approaching and bringing members of both the clusters together.

Prayer meet concluded with interaction and fellowship.

Eksar Zone



SCIENCE IN THE WILD - VIGYAN YATRA TO SGNP

T

o celebrate National Science Day (28th February), Prayas Kendra – Don Bosco Borivali organised a Vigyan Yatra to Sanjay Gandhi National Park on 19th February 2026. The aim was to nurture scientific curiosity and develop an abiding interest in science through appreciation of nature and wildlife. Twenty children participated, accompanied by their teachers under the guidance of Fr. Mario.

The group travelled by Metro and was divided into four supervised teams for safety. Within the park, they visited the Taxidermy Museum, Orchid Park, and the Wild Cat Information Centre, where guides shared valuable insights on biodiversity and conservation.



The children enjoyed breakfast together, followed by a scenic toy-train ride through the lush greenery. The highlight of the day was the Tiger and Lion Safari.

A short Immediate Mastery Quiz was conducted before departure. The trip successfully combined learning with adventure, fostering teamwork, observation skills, and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

- Don Bosco Oratory





WORLD MARRIAGE DAY 2026

We are not alone in this world. In God's plan, there is a companion bound by the sacrament of matrimony. We call it marriage. We are the lucky lot. It is God settling the life partners for us. We are the chosen couples of God and instituted with Jesus Christ to lead our married life and healthy family. God commissioned us as pall-bearers to carry out the Church and family traditions and culture before handing over to the next generation. We are reminded of our relationship by renewing the marriage vows in the Church between God and man, to become trustworthy, to co-exist, and to be thankful for the many blessings we have received unaccounted by us.

Married couples were invited for the celebration of World Marriage Day, beginning with the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Church, which was attended by a large number of couples walking hand in hand in a procession led by Father Mario Vaz, the main celebrant, to the altar of God. The couples dedicatedly showed how deep their love is for each other, eager to renew the marriage vows, expressing strong sentiments and Christ's virtues to stay united till death makes us apart. Father Mario Vaz, began the service to this special day, asking for forgiveness, expressing steadfast love for each other, and thanking each other for their sacrifices, contribution, assistance, and support throughout, even in difficult times.

The readings, the Gospel, and the sermon were directed towards emphasizing World Marriage Day. The couples renewed their marriage vows, tying bands symbolizing the love and promises that binds them forever through our Lord Jesus Christ. The couples walked together yet once again to receive the sacred Holy Communion by going to the altar in pairs. The choir sang melodious and angelic hymns.

The Mass ended with the significance that the Cross to God impels us to build and renew at home and bring peace in the world. Father sprinkled holy water, going to the couples seated in the Church.

The blessed couples were then directed to proceed to the school hall for the Jamboree on World Marriage Day. The couples were offered cake and tea and were encouraged to partake in the wedding march by the bold and beautiful compere for the day, Mrs. Renita Fernandez, who cheered the crowd and motivated the couples to steal the show and become the showstoppers of the day.

The President, Mr. Alwyn Lobo, spoke about the inception, conceptualization, and the need to celebrate World Marriage Day every year. The program was declared open after the inaugural speech.

The couples took to the floor for the dance, games, and a fun filled day with full enthusiasm. They enjoyed the games such as musical lap and ice-breaking housie which they found enterprising and delightful. The couples danced to the old and new musical songs, line dances, Mangalorean – Goan – East Indian masalas, etc. Father Mario was present throughout the event experiencing the warm ambience, the fun and frolic among the couples and handing out prizes to the winners of the games. Fr. Mario also gave a prelude before praying and blessing the meal. The meal, organized by the Family Cell, was sumptuous and delectable.



All good things come to an end, and so did the World Marriage Day program. The couples were lost in paradise at the grand school hall, walking hand in hand, one after the other.

Two members from the crowd came forward and delivered the vote of thanks, thanking the Priests in the community, Family Cell members and the compere for conducting a lovely program from start to finish. The couples, in a hilarious mood, conveyed "Sayonara" to each and every couple and Family Cell members, parting with the wish to come back for the next program conducted by the Family Cell.

We wish and congratulate all the renewed couples in Christ for a happy and peaceful married family life.

-Family Cell



PRAISE THE LORD

FEMINA BEAUTY PARLOUR

(Ladies only)

- Hair cut
- Hair colour
- Waxing

- Head massage
- Manicure & pedicure
- Face bleach

Ranjana D'silva - 9867339509

Y-36, Flat no 009/C, Yogi Shree CHS., Yogi Nagar, Borivali (W), Mumbai 91

Home visit & wedding orders accepted



WALKING IN THE SPIRIT: CONFIRMATION 2026



At a deeply meaningful and prayerful celebration, His Lordship, Bishop Dominic Savio solemnly conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on twenty Confirmands on 8th February 2026 at St. John Bosco Church, Borivali.

The celebration began with a graceful entrance, as the candidates, accompanied by their parents, carried self-made placards reflecting the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The liturgy included the renewal of baptismal vows, followed by the laying of hands in the apostolic tradition and the anointing with Chrism oil, administered in the presence of parents and Godparents.

The Confirmands actively animated the Mass, with all 20 children participating prayerfully and wholeheartedly. The Eucharistic celebration was enriched by thoughtfully chosen hymns such as Send Forth Your Spirit, O Lord, O Let the Son of Man Enfold You, and the recessional hymn Your Kingdom Come, making the occasion truly spiritually uplifting and memorable.

Sunday School

ASK, SEEK, KNOCK- A SPIRITUAL ADVICE COLUMN

Q1. At times, we receive WhatsApp messages claiming that Mother Mary will visit our homes if we recite a prayer and forward it to a certain number of people, warning us not to break the chain. Should



we forward such messages out of fear of consequences if we don't? Or is it better to take a stand and stop such practices altogether? What is your perspective?

A. It is not right to forward such messages. They are rooted in superstition and fear, not faith. You should firmly choose to stop and break the chain. God and Mother Mary do not act in ways that punish people for not sharing messages. Our faith is built on love and trust, not fear or compulsion.

Q2. In our busy and demanding lives, we often struggle to find time for prayer. We tend to justify this by saying things like “work is worship” or “God understands.” What practical advice would you give to help us intentionally make time for personal prayer and Bible reading in our daily routine?

A. We often come across sayings like “work is prayer,” and while they carry some truth, they cannot replace actual prayer. Even Don Bosco, who dedicated his life to service, never neglected personal prayer. He still made time for the Divine Office, confessions, the Rosary, and quiet moments with God.

Work offered with love is valuable but it does not substitute intentional prayer. Prayer is a direct relationship with God.

A practical tip: Start small and stay consistent. Set aside even 10-15 minutes daily, perhaps in the morning or before bed for prayer or Bible reading. Treat it as a non-negotiable appointment with God. Over time, this habit will deepen naturally.

Q3. I am about to complete my MBA. My mother, who is very devout, faithfully attends the Wednesday novena at Mahim and prays for me to secure a good job. She makes a vow that if I do get a good job, I will attend the Wednesday novena for one year.

In this context:

1. Is it appropriate to make such vows?
2. Can someone make a vow on behalf of another person?
3. Am I obliged to fulfill a vow that I did not personally make?
4. Could this be considered a form of emotional pressure, especially if it leads to tension within the family?

What would be your advice in such a situation?

A. A vow is something sacred and serious, usually made freely and personally before God.

What is described in this situation is not truly a vow for you, but a promise made by someone else.

You are not morally bound to fulfill a promise that you did not personally make. While your mother's intention comes from love and faith, she cannot impose a spiritual commitment on you.

It is also important to understand that such situations, if forced, can feel like emotional pressure and may create unnecessary tension within the family.

Advice: Approach this with understanding and dialogue. Respect your mother's devotion, but gently and honestly express your own freedom and responsibility in your spiritual life. Faith must be chosen freely; it cannot be imposed.



The questions featured in this column are intentionally kept anonymous to respect privacy. The responses reflect pastoral opinions and general spiritual guidance and are not intended as definitive or binding counsel for individual situations. The publication and contributors assume no liability for decisions made based on this content.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

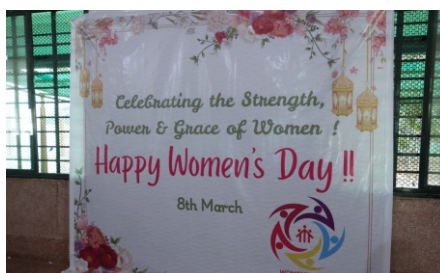
On 8th March 2026, Don Bosco Women's Cell organized a special program to celebrate International Women's Day for the women of our parish.

Prior to the program, the parishioners participated in the Holy Mass, solemnly celebrated by Fr Aloysius Furtado and concelebrated by Fr Manuel Murzello. The priests extended prayers and blessings, warmly wishing all women "Happy Women's Day."

The program began with a brief introduction about the functioning of Women's Cell followed by a welcome song-cum-traditional dance conducted by the Sisters of St. Anne and their team. The program progressed with a short talk by Fr Manuel. In his message, he highlighted the incredible contribution made by women within the church and society.

Women's cell arranged guest speakers to speak on the role of women in the management of financial resources in one's daily life and cybercrime and its increased cases in today's world and the second topic was self-awareness; for women to look at themselves first, align one's actions with their own values, and join it as a tool for personal development.

The Women's Cell also organized interesting games, which made the event more lively and fun-filled. The program concluded with a vote of thanks, grace before meals and sumptuous food bringing a smile and happiness to everyone's face.



Women's Cell





“Happily Married”

Bridegroom	Zone	Date of Marriage
Aashish Fonseca & Sakshi Chhabra	Gorai 1	27-12-2025
Kevin Menezes & Oshin Fereira	Jayraj C	27-12-2025
Aldrin Jeswinth & Joshanu Angel Fernando	Vazira B	28-12-2025
Ashley Nair & Simran Chirayil	Gorai 2	30-12-2025

“Resting in Eternity”

Name	Zone	Died On
Fatima Santan Silveira	Gorai 2 B	23-12-2025
Douglas Peter Gomes	Gorai 1B	20-01-2026
Remedios Peter D'souza	Chikuwadi B	30-01-2026
Anna Mary D'Almeida	Gorai 1B	05-03-2026
Mary Stella Fernandes	Gorai 1 C	08-03-2026
Assis Sebastian Vaz	Gorai 3 B	08-03-2026
Expectacao Fernandes	Old MHB C	09-03-2026

“Baptised In Jesus”

Baptism Date	Name	Parent's name	Zone
18-01-2026	Richelle Kharat	Joy & Rhea	Old MHB C
18-01-2026	Jenika Kharat	Joy & Rhea	Old MHB C
07-04-2026	Ivan Nadar	Isaac & Vinisha	Gorai 1D
07-04-2026	Ivanna Nadar	Isaac & Vinisha	Gorai 1D



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Fr. Vishal 08th March 2026



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Fr. Aloysius - 28th March 2026





A Glass of Goodness for Growing Minds



For orders contact : Rahul Prajapati 9223236155

