

ST. JOHN BOSCO CHURCH, BORIVALI (W)

“Be the YEAST in Today’s Human Family,”



SOUVENIR
2023



किंग भुजिंग-
बिर्याणी कॉर्नर



SINCE
2012

EKSAR ROAD, BORIVALI (W)

वसई विरारचे सुप्रसिद्ध भुजिंग

CHICKEN BHUJING	500 / 260
SPL. BHUJING/BONELESS	580 / 300

CHICKEN LUCKNOWI BIRYANI

REGULAR 1KG	1150 / 600
TIKKA BIRYANI 1KG	1400 / 700
MALAI BIRYANI 1KG	1400 / 700
TANDOORI BIRYANI 1KG	1250 / 650
MUTTON BIRYANI 1KG	1800 / 900
(ANY HALF KG BIRYANI IS GOOD FOR 5 PEOPLE)	

CHICKEN BONE TIKKA	100
CHI. BONELESS KANDI	100
SHAHI ROLL PLATE	220 (5 PCS)
DRUMSTICK PLATE	220 (5 PCS)

HOME DELIVERY IN DAHISAR, BORIVALI, KANDIVALI

○ BHUJING ○ BIRYANI ○ TANDOORI ○ KEBABS

77009 36777 | 96533 66306

WWW.BHUJING.COM



OPP. LAXMI NARAYAN MANDIR, YOGI NAGER JUNCTION,
EKSAR ROAD, BORIVALI (W)

From the Rector's Desk...

Dear Parishioners,

As this souvenir is coming on the occasion of the Feast of Don Bosco, I would like to thank God for all the blessings he has showered on me and on our Parish. I want to thank Mother Mary for her immense blessings and all the miracles that she works in our Parish. Since the time I have come to this Parish and continued my ministry I have seen the hand of God moving on the Parishioners and me. The Parish is alive, spiritually active and vibrant.

All the associations come together as a team under the leadership of the priests of the parish to organise all the events and programmes to enable the parishioners grow spiritually in the parish. By doing this we are in the process of building leaders and animators in the Parish. There are many young people who are involved in the faith formation and catechesis.

St. John Bosco Parish is the only Parish in the Archdiocese of Bombay under the Patronage of St. John Bosco. So my dream is to make this parish a shrine of Don Bosco where people will visit and pray to Don Bosco. Once again, I thank our Lady Mary. Help of Christians who is always a guiding figure and St. Joseph who blesses and guides our parish silently. As I conclude, I would like to appeal to you to always pray to Don Bosco and Mary Help of Christians and have a devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist.

Praising God for his wonderful gifts!

Fr. Solomon Rapol, SDB

Thank You

On behalf of my parish priest team and St John Bosco parishioners, I would like to thank all the donors and advertisement subscribers for their generous contribution. I would like to thank all the parishioners, who volunteered to collect donations and advertisements. I would like to thank all those who volunteered to write the articles and volunteered to edit the content. Especially, I would like to thank the souvenir team for planning the souvenir, personally following up for articles, identifying potential donors and fund raising, coordinating design and printing of souvenir.

I trust the souvenir will be useful and informative for all of us to understand the functioning of various parish associations and SCCs. Further it will inspire and motivate all the parishioners to join, involve and participate in upcoming parish events. Happy reading!

God bless you!

Fr. Solomon Rapol SDB





Bishop Barthol Barretto

AUXILIARY BISHOP
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOMBAY

January 20, 2023

Dear Frs Solomon, Flovi, Renold, Aloysius and my dear parishioners,

It gives me immense joy to know that you will be celebrating your parish Feast on the occasion of St John Bosco, your Patron Saint, on January 31, 2023.

St John Bosco, as most of us are aware was a 19th century Italian priest who reached out to the young people to remedy their lack of education, opportunities and faith. At the age of nine, John had the first of many dreams that would greatly influence him. In his dream, he came across a group of rough boys who were talking and cursing. John became angry with them and raised his hands to threaten them for cursing. Suddenly, a man appeared in his dream who was radiant like the sun. The man said to John, "*Conquer the hearts of these, your friends, not with violence, but with charity. Teach them the evil of vice and the excellence of virtue.*" When John asked the man who he was, the man replied, "I am the Son of the lady I will send to be your teacher." With that, the Blessed Mother appeared in the dream and began to teach John about his future mission of caring for boys with kindness.

As you celebrate your Parish Feast Day, my one prayer and wish for you is to keep the young boys and girls of your parish together. Please ensure that they treasure the Faith, live out the Faith and may their Faith in God enable them to reach out to the sick, the poor, the disturbed and particularly, those on the peripheries.

May St John intercede for us so that the youth begin to realize that they are not the future but the "now of God" (Christus Vivit, Pope Francis). May each and every parishioner enable our youth to rise up to the occasion and become salt of the earth and light of the world, today and forever.

God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

+ 

✠ Barthol Barretto
Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay

Don Bosco -The Saint of Joy

Dear Friends,

Let me begin right away by wishing you a very Happy Feast of Don Bosco our Father and our Friend! We are fortunate to have Don Bosco as our Patron and our Guide! He is a saint who shares with us most clearly the central and defining truth of our Christian Faith: namely, the truth that God loves us and that his love for us made real in the birth, life, passion and death of his son Jesus, is universal, eternal and unconditional.

Don Bosco is a Joyful Saint! His message to all of us and to young people in particular is ‘Rejoice in the Lord always!’ He invites us to trust in the Lord and to place all our anxieties, problems and worries into the Lord’s hands. We know that Don Bosco had to face many challenges and difficulties in his life. To begin with, when he was only two years old his father passed away leaving his mother Margaret with three children and very few resources to make ends meet. Thankfully, Don Bosco’s mother was a woman of exemplary faith who taught him and his brothers, more through her life than through her words, to trust in the goodness and providence of the Lord. As a seminarian and later on as a priest, Don Bosco – then John Bosco – had to face many problems but what he learnt from his mother remained with him all his life. In fact, those who knew Don Bosco well, said of him, that the more problems he had, the bigger the challenges before him, the brighter was Don Bosco’s smile!!

Don Bosco was not a superman but he was convinced that God cannot be outdone in his generosity and love! He had great trust in the Providence of God. This coupled with his devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and his childlike trust in Mary brought about a lot of miracles.

As we celebrate Don Bosco’s feast my wish for all of us is that we may open ourselves to the truth of God’s love for us, that we may be generous with God in sharing our time and talents with those around us. Let us remember that God loves us always. May we experience his goodness and care in our lives and may we seek always to proclaim in all that we are and do his eternal goodness and mercy.

Affectionately in Jesus,

Fr. Ashley Miranda, SDB
Vice Provincial

On 28 July 2022, the Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime, Father and Centre of Unity of the Salesian Family, announced the theme and guidelines of the Strenna for the year 2023:

“As the Yeast in Today’s Human Family The lay dimension in the family of Don Bosco”

He reminds us of a very foundational principle of our Salesian Family, going back to the beginnings of the work for the young by Don Bosco. He tells us, “... ***we are called as a Family to give of ourselves and to complete each other.***”

The **evocative image** of leaven in the dough of bread is taken from the parable of Luke’s Gospel, Again, Jesus said, “*To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed [in] with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch of dough was leavened.*” (Lk. 13: 20-21).

The Rector Major explains that the **leaven** is “**the only living ingredient,**” the element that is used in small quantities but that “*has the ability to influence, condition, and transform the whole batch of dough.*” The whole point of the parable lies in one thing—the transforming power of the leaven. Leaven changed the character of a whole baking.... The introduction of the leaven causes a transformation in the dough.

Fr. Ángel also brings to our attention the tradition of holiness which has borne so much fruit on the great tree of the Salesian Family, “*young people, lay people, martyrs, people who have filled their lives with the leaven of love, love that gives itself to the end, faithful to Jesus Christ and His Gospel.*” Zeferino Namuncurà and Laura Vicuña, Alberto Marvelli, Domenic Savio, Alessandrina da Costa, Attilio Giordani, the young martyrs of Poznam, the young Bashir of Pakistan, and the Indian Boi-Bororo Simao, the benefactress Dorotea Chopitea, the mother of Don Bosco, Mamma Margherita, and Artemide Zatti, now close to canonization, are the examples proposed.

The Strenna proposes that every member of the Salesian Family and young people should be leaven in the world, spreading the Word and the Kingdom of God just as leaven transforms the dough of bread.

Each of us is called to be the leaven of the world in which we live, where through our diversity, simplicity and humility we can take the message of Jesus to every place, expressing his love through our actions and words.

Fr. Flovi D’Souza, SDB

Being the Yeast of the Kingdom

The Parable of the Yeast, chosen as the theme for Strenna 2023, refers to the mission and commitment of each person, to the great Human Family in which the Salesian Family (Family of Don Bosco) is inserted. When we consider the makeup of the Salesian Family, the majority of the members are lay people from a vast array of countries and cultures. As members of the family of Don Bosco, how can we contribute to helping the Kingdom grow?

The Rector Major explains that the yeast is the only living ingredient that is used in small quantities but can influence, condition, and transform the whole batch of dough. Yeast permeates the lifeless flour and causes it to grow. It has a limitless ability to make things grow and become bigger and tastier. Every person in this world is called to discover the meaning of their existence, which is precisely to be the yeast in the world and help God's Kingdom to grow, to become bigger than what it is now. As members of the Family of Don Bosco, we commit ourselves to responding in a creative, collaborative, and concrete way, in everything possible, to truly be the Yeast of love, love that gives itself to the end, faithful to Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

Fr. Renold Lemos, SDB

Message on the Strenna of the Rector Major 2023

This year our Rector Major Don Angel Fernandez Artime has given us the Strenna for the year 2023- *as yeast in today's human family the lay dimension of the family of Don Bosco.*

The Rector Major, in addressing the Salesian family says that in the light of our pedagogy and spirituality this year we want to rediscover the lay dimension in our charism. This year the Strenna is dedicated to the lay people who are the yeast that makes the bread of the human family, the bread of the kingdom of God that makes it tastier. Jesus said "to what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like yeast that woman took and mixed in with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch of dough was leavened" (Luke 13:18-21). Yeast works silently just as the leavening of the work of God works in silence.

We are a community of people from different social backgrounds and different walks of life. The kingdom of God requires our collaboration but above all it is the Lord's initiative and gift. Our work is small and weak in comparison to complexity of the world's problems but if inserted into God it becomes strong and is not afraid of difficulties. Do not trust in your own abilities but in the power of God's love. Do not act to be important in the eyes of the world but precious in the eyes of God who prefers the simple and the humble.

Let us remember that we live here. The good that we can do today we must not leave it for tomorrow. We are a family with many needs - need of justice, of dignity for the lost and discarded, need of truth, need of peace, and the need of fraternity, in need of care for a common home and above all else the need of God. We are called as the family of Don Bosco to live in this human family.

The ultimate goal of Don Bosco's mission is together with the salvation of his boys the transformation of society. Without the laity, how can we reach there? *The church has need of lay people and of the lay vision, to speak the language of humanity, to live humanity.*

Fr. Francis Fernandes, SDB

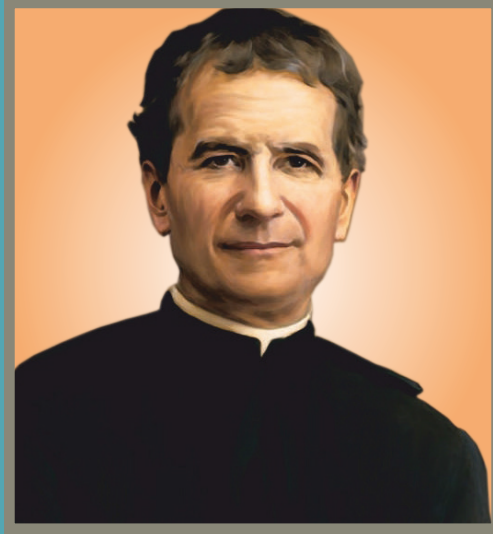
As the Yeast in Today's Human Family The lay dimension in the family of Don Bosco

Every family is the bedrock of the Parish, the most beautiful institution on earth, a replica of heaven. Parish is the family of families and is the miniature cell of the universal church. Each one of us is called to be leaven in the Church, spreading the good news of the Kingdom of God. Hence lay participation is very vital to the functioning of the Parish wherein all must feel at home. It is a place where we celebrate the experience of our life lived as Christian, giving due importance to the Word of God, Breaking of the Bread, Sacraments, and faith sharing. Hence it's the sole responsibility of every laity to put the best of themselves in order to transmit the faith, live it to the full and blossom it in the parish through the Synodal principles of Participation, Communication and Mission, hand in hand with the priests of the parish.

It's at the knees of the faithful that vocations sprout up. Children and young people need our presence and our support; they need our love and encouragement. in order to make right choices in life. Our young people are vulnerable and we need to be sensitive and attentive to their needs in order to make them GOOD CHRISTIANS AND HONEST CITIZENS.

The future of the Parish lies in the hands of the laity. So let our motto be: Making our parish a web of unity, love and peace, creating a good ambience for everyone to involve and experience Jesus as our Lord and Master.

Sr. Hedwige Pereira, SchSA



"Be devoted to Mother Mary;
Frequently call on Her.
Never was it known
that anyone who
trustingly had recourse to Her
was not promptly heard"
- St. John Bosco



*With Best Wishes from
Jacinta and Herman Aranha,
Rohan and Debita Aranha
And Rini Aranha*

With Best Compliments from:



ROQUE ROCKY R. MIRANDA

Parish SCC Coordinator	2016 to 2023
Zonal Leader (Chikkuwadi "A" Zone)	2016 to 2023.
Secretary (Parish Executive Committee)	2019 to 2023

Done the following courses from "Laity Training Centre", Bombay

Management Skills for SCC Coordinators	2016 to 2017
TOA-: Training of Animators	2017 to 2018
TOT : Training of Trainers	2018 to 2019

Sponsored By: SSSS Parish Priests/Office.
(I take this opportunity to Thank
Rev. Fr. Aloysius Furtado & Rev.Fr.Solomon Rapol.)

We Care

“WE CARE”– Don Bosco is alive today, alive in so many different realities where thousands and thousands of people carry his dream forward, in the name of Jesus and he continues to be their inspiration.

It was the first week of September 2020. The pandemic had caused a lot of fear, uncertainty and ambiguity in everybody’s lives. In these troubled and tumultuous times, Fr. Solomon Rapol our Parish Priest and Rector of St. John Bosco Church, Borivali (W) suggested to visit the Adivasi pada in Gorai village to help the villages tide over the pandemic. Fr. Rapol also wanted to provide them with basic necessities to make them feel that “WE CARE.” Fr. Rapol along with his team met the local social activist, Ms. Sushma Dawde,



who is known to work tirelessly for the Adivasis at Gorai. While she lives in the same Adivasi village at Gorai, she works at the Adivasi Department at Matralaya, Mumbai.



She gave a briefing on the grievances



of the villagers. The challenge was for the students as Covid had introduced a new medium of learning and that was “ONLINE”. It was difficult for the children to get an internet connection in the village and also access to computers or mobile phones to attend the online classes. Fr. Rapol along with his team worked out a plan to provide access to online classes through Rotary Club and Don Bosco Oratory Nerul which was an immense success as these children were able to receive the education that wouldn’t have been possible otherwise.

Also, Father Solomon and his team provided basic necessities to the villagers by way of food, stationery, food packets, groceries, etc. Through this intervention thus indeed *“Don Bosco is alive today.”*

Fr. Solomon Rapol SDB

Home for all – Don Bosco Oratory

Don Bosco's vision for the oratory was to be a school, a home, a playground, and a place of prayer and worship. Don Bosco founded the oratory as a response to the needs of the youth and



young adults of the area, especially those who were most in need in Turin, Italy. Don Bosco's Oratory offered healthy recreation, evangelization and catechesis, an elementary education, employable life skills and personality growth of the poor youngsters.



The oratory of Don Bosco Borivali provides education, recreation and nutrition to the children of the nearby localities and slums. There are various programmes conducted for the children. They are given access to the playground and also the newly constructed turf.

As on date, Don Bosco Borivali has around 80 children in its Oratory. Few of the teachers for the evening have been providing whole-hearted voluntary service for the oratory as well as paid services.



The events conducted for these children were Children's day and Christmas Outreach Programme. Christmas Outreach Programme was conducted on December 26, 2022 at 5 pm. Around 600 children from the neighbouring slums attended this programme. It also provided a feeder for the oratory.



During one of the earlier meetings, it was decided to involve the Salesian Co-operators for the evening oratory. Most of them are aged 65 and above. We had also decided to appoint a person for the tailoring classes. After various follow ups by Fr. Solomon Rapol, a teacher has been appointed to look after the Basti women & young girls. They will be provided tailoring classes and allied courses.



“It is not enough to love the young, they must know they are loved” – Don Bosco.

Fr. Solomon Rapol SDB

A Silver Lining in the Clouds of Despair

Actions speak louder than words, let your words teach and your actions speak – St. Anthony of Padua.

“A Silver Lining in the Clouds of Despair”- The ongoing global pandemic of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) caused a severe global, social and economic disruption in the world as well as in an individual’s life. It ripped apart the socio-economic fabric of people at the lowest strata of society.

Those who could afford the food were ensconced in a comfortable and safe space... their homes, experimenting with food recipes and learning new hobbies. The people directly hit by the pandemic could not even afford a slice of bread to feed their families. These

DON BOSCO SHARES



Community Fridge Project

people, who lost not just their source of livelihood but also their hopes and dreams, didn’t have a morsel of food for their family or themselves. These heart wrenching stories and scenes of utter poverty and hunger moved



the Priests at Don Bosco community, Borivali.

Inspired by the Gospel of 5 loaves and 2 fishes, Fr. Solomon Rapol together with the community priests took an initiative and began the groundwork for a project





*which began to shape up from May 2021. They worked tirelessly and put together a team of volunteers and members of various groups affiliated to the church, past pupils of Don Bosco and like-minded individuals. **On June 13, 2021 on the feast of St. Anthony of Padua their dream turned into reality.***

The team fed about 100 people each day. One could walk into the compound of Don Bosco church and pick up a nutritious **“HOT MEAL”** that was free of cost.

This was a grand success as hungry street kids, metro-rail workers, daily labourers, street urchins, and a few senior citizens, who could not afford a decent meal flocked to Don Bosco Borivali’s Campus and enjoyed the hot meal served there.

Everyone in the team were shocked to see 100 meal packets being served in an hour or so. This successful project resulted in 8000 packets being distributed thus far. Fr. Rapol and his team continue to spread smiles all around. Sometimes there are familiar faces in the crowd of hungry faces who never cease to bless the volunteers and the team. Fr. Rapol looks at his team, the happy faces of those whose hunger have been satiated and knows that his prayers have been answered.

Fr. Solomon Rapol SDB

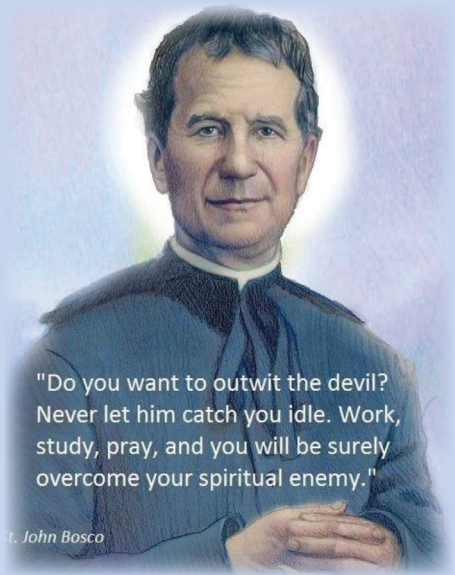


“Covid Food Distribution”

A humble and inspirational initiative by our Rector and Parish Priest Fr. Solomon Rapol along with the whole-hearted support from our various Parish Associations.



“Learn more about our Faith”



"Do you want to outwit the devil? Never let him catch you idle. Work, study, pray, and you will be surely overcome your spiritual enemy."

St. John Bosco

Fr. Solomon Rapol SDB

With Best Compliments from:



**Vasant B. Rajput
Anil V. Rajput**

Prakash Mandap Decor

**We undertake all type of Mandap Decoration,
Lighting etc.**

**9322876624 / 9892583187
8779221454
annu_rajput@rediffmail.com**

Vasant B. House, Navagaon, L.M. Road, Opp. Shagun Hotel,
Dahisar West, Mumbai 400068.

**With Best Compliments
and wishes from**



MASTER ZAYN D'SOUZA
with his parents
Samidha & Glenn
and grand Parents
Benedicta (Benny) & Raphael

Parish Finance Committee

Down the memory lane.., two, three decades ago, when we visited our native village, it was easy to identify and differentiate between “the haves” and “have-nots” i.e. the rich and the poor. Rich were mostly farmers living in the tiled farm houses, villas, bungalows, etc., owned and surrounded with vast land. The poor were mostly labourers surviving on wages in kind or in the form of food grains, lived in the huts, over the hills and forests.

Lately now, in the suburban city, in reference to Borivali, most of our people live in bungalows, flats, row houses, chawls, etc., which are either of ownership, inherited or rented. Very few live in slums. In the current scenario; most of them appear happy and overall well to do. It’s very difficult to gauge anybody’s socio-economic well-being.

Every human being passes through the vicious cycle of social, economic highs and lows. Some lose steady income jobs at early age, for some post retirement savings have been depleted, for some investment in lifestyle upgradation like home loan, car loan, etc. has backfired, for some small time job earners inflation is a killer, etc. There are many parishioners facing hardships in multiple ways and they find difficult to survive and support their families with basic needs of food, education and healthcare.

We at Parish Finance Committee support and provide consultative services to the priests, parish pastoral council and associations in administering the sacramental services like novena, Lenten mission, Holy week services, Christmas, other festive liturgies and administration of sacraments, etc. Support in formative and developmental activities for Sunday school children, confirmation, youth and adult faith formation. Support in social and cultural activities of the parish. Support the needy parishioners, through parish associations and SCC zonal leaders in facilitating education aid, medical aid and basic daily living aid.

The Strenna 2023 (theme) for this year is - “As the YEAST in today’s human family: The lay dimension of the family of Don Bosco. In line with the strenna; we invite all our parishioners to partner with St. John Bosco Church Borivali to participate, get involved and walk in the footsteps of Don Bosco!

1. Support a needy family with basic day to day living aid
2. Support a needy student with school/college fees

3. Support an aspiring parishioner with post-graduation course fees
4. Support a needy parishioner in basic health care treatments
5. Volunteer to guide the traumatise/depressed family members for advanced treatments of medical/surgical emergencies
6. Volunteer your services in career counselling, mentoring, hand holding, professional counselling, soft skill training
7. Volunteer to counsel the challenges faced by our parishioners at various stages of human life; like teenager, peer pressure, job related, mid life crisis

All parishioners are welcome to volunteer, register or enlist with our parish priests, parish office, SCC zonal leaders, parish finance committee to be donors, benefactors, well-wishers, mentors, counsellors, guide and provide any other services not listed above.

Come forward and volunteer with us, to enable you, to reach out to those most in need. Let's walk together spiritually, take responsibility for an inclusive developmental growth of our parish community and financially sound health and wellbeing.

Parish Finance Committee



The Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a body of all the zonal representatives, the heads of lay associations and the priests. The aim of the PPC is to ensure a smooth functioning of the parish in coordination with the priests of the parish.

The year 2022 began with a lot of hope and expectations of being a normal year, with the past being a bad dream which just passed by. The term of the council which was to end in June this year was extended due to the lockdown and the council decided to ensure to make it a memorable one, and we tried in earnest to make the best of the opportunity provided to us.

The restrictions were relaxed in October the previous year and we had expected things to be normal by Christmas 2021, but the government again placed

restrictions in the Christmas season and we had to conduct the masses indoors.

In the following months things started limping back to normal and the lock down was lifted and the situation returned back to normal. Now the challenge was to get the parishioners back to church to attend mass. It was heartening to see people coming back to church but it was not like earlier, there were a lot of empty places still visible during masses.

Then we entered the season of lent and had the Lenten mission which was well received. We decided to have open air masses for the holy triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter vigil. Parishioners came in large numbers for these masses and that was a very positive sign for us.

After a break we began the last year of our term; The first event of the year was Vianney Sunday which is celebrated on the solemnity of the St. John Marie Vianney which is used by the PPC along with the parishioners to thank and shower our gratitude on our beloved priests. This is the least that we can do for them who sacrifice their entire life to serve our lord, and who act as our guide and spiritual teachers and show us the path of righteousness,

The next big event on our list was the Mission Sunday. This year we were free of restrictions so we decided to make it a very memorable one where all would have a fun Sunday and at the same time, we would ensure that all are able to contribute for a noble cause. Memorable and grand is an understatement as it turned out to be an event to remember for a lifetime. It was worth the time, energy and effort that was put in to ensure the success of the event.

In the month of December, the relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis was brought to our parish and it was well received; Many of our parishioners went to Christ the King church to receive the relic and we brought it in a rally led by our youth who were on bikes. The relic was brought in procession to the church by our parishioners and placed in the church for three days during which the youth had organized a night vigil for the youth of our parish. Adoration and prayer services were also conducted which were animated by the various zones of our parish.

We ended the year with midnight masses on Christmas and New Year's Eve. It was after a period of many years that we were permitted to celebrate masses at midnight. The church was well decorated by the youth; they displayed their creativity with a very uniquely themed crib. The Sunday school children also made a beautiful crib.

Thus, we came to an end of a very eventful year and we did our best to make it

a memorable and pleasant year in terms of your experience while you were in church.

We begin the year with our parish feast in honor of St. John Bosco and our annual get together the BOSCO NITE which will be organized after a period of three long years.

As mentioned earlier we completed our term in May this year and the new members will be inducted into the council to begin a new term from June. As the Vice President of the parish council, on behalf of all the council members I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and cooperation you have given to your zonal representatives. I also earnestly request you to please involve yourselves more in parish activities so that we can become a more vibrant and dynamic parish. As our parish priest rightly quotes that to make a change you have to be a part of the system. Hence request you to please contest the upcoming zonal representative elections and make a change to our lovely parish.

God Bless you all always!

Mr. Gavin Henriques



Parish Executive Committee

Functions and Responsibilities

The Executive committee of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), comprises of all the priests in house, the Vice-president, the secretary and few members from the council who are elected by the members of the parish council.

The lay members are elected by the council members at the beginning of the term of the council. The members of the current committee are Fr. Solomon Rapol- the Parish Priest, Mr. Gavin Henriques- the Vice President, Mr. Rocky Miranda- the Secretary, Mr. Anil Pinto - Head Finance Committee, Mr. Melvin George- the zonal representative of the Chicoowadi Zone and Durran D'Mello- the zonal representative of the Gorai 2 Zone.

The main role of the committee is to propose implementation of various activities and implement the activities approved by the parish council and the parish priest.

The committee meets once in a month. The meeting is held before the PPAC meeting which is held on the last Saturday of every month. The council members are informed the date of the executive committee meeting and are asked for any points which they would want to be taken up for discussion. The Committee discusses and draws a frame work for such activities and prepares an agenda for the items that need to be discussed in the parish pastoral council. The views, both positive and negative are taken from the council members and finalized in a democratic manner.

The term of the current council will get over in May 2023, hence the term of the parish executive committee will come to an end. The elections for the new council members will be held within the next couple of months and the members of the executive committee will be elected in the first council meeting which will be held in June 2023.

There are members in the Parish pastoral Council who would have completed two terms and hence would not be eligible to contest elections again as zonal representatives. The parish is in need to identify new leaders who could continue to carry out the unfinished work of the present members. Hence, I on behalf of the council and executive committee make an earnest request to you all to come forward and help our parish grow and make it more vibrant and active.

Mr. Rocky Miranda



Small Christian Communities (SCC)

Church is a Communion of Communities of Christian people who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. To strengthen our Church we must participate in the Small Christian Communities by attending the SCC meetings of the community. After the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, there was a lot of opposition to Christianity in Jerusalem and surrounding cities/countries. There were no churches. So the believers in Jesus Christ used to meet in small groups in their neighbourhood houses and celebrate the Eucharist and have the meal together, discuss and share the teachings of Jesus Christ and help their poor neighbours, when they were in need of help. They used to discuss the teachings of Jesus and follow them, There was no written Scripture till the Third Century A.D. The communities used to note

the minutes of their discussion, teachings of Jesus during these meetings. These communities were named as St. Mark, St. Luke, St. Mathew etc., which were more than 70 in number and have recorded these discussions. Some of them have been part of the New Testament.

In the Archdiocese of Bombay, Small Christian Communities were started in 1984, by Bishop Bosco Penha, at St. Thomas Church, Goregaon West. Initially Bishop Bosco Penha faced challenges, but he didn't give up. Bishop took the support of Goregaon Seminarians and formed the 36 SCCs in the St. Thomas Church, Goregaon West in 1984. Gradually, the movement spread across all the parishes in the city.

In our St. John Bosco Church, we have 13 Small Christian Communities and 35 Zones/Cluster groups, headed by a Zonal leader in each Zone. We have a Parish SCC coordinator and an Asst. Parish SCC Coordinator, who attends the SCC meetings. The parish SCC coordinator interacts with these SCC Coordinators, collects their quarterly SCC (meeting)reports and submits to the Director of SCCs - Bishop Barthol Barretto. He also conducts the Quarterly Steering Committee meetings in the presence of Parish Priest. He also attends the monthly Borivali Deanery meetings held in various parishes of the Deanery. He attends the Quarterly Bombay diocese meetings conducted by the Director of SCCs- Bishop Barthol Barretto at Salvation Seva Kendra, Dadar and gives feedback/Report to Bishop on Parish activities.

Mr. Rocky Miranda



Don Bosco Youth Movement (DBYM) Borivali

Don Bosco Youth Movement is an active body of St. John Bosco Church, Borivali. It is basically an association that involves youth. Don Bosco Youth Movement is a platform that enables young adults to explore and experiment themselves. Youth are considered as the future of the parish, but Don Bosco Youth Movement believes that they are the present of the parish. They play a fundamental role in engaging the parishioners in various activities of the parish. They follow Don Bosco as their guide and consider him as their role model and function accordingly. The



prime objective of Don Bosco Youth Movement is to prepare the Youth to face the competitive world and to keep the parish vibrant.

By preparing the youth we mean honing their technical skills and soft skills keeping in mind that every youth is rooted in Christ and so we also bring them closer to God. In the past we have organized a number of events i.e. Zonal Throw ball and Football Tournaments, Trio Fest, Online competitions, Leadership meetings, Seminars on how to invest and insure oneself and family, Monsoon Madness, Treks, games for mission Sunday, Taize Prayer service, Animation of Mass and adoration, night vigils, enacting the passion of Christ. We also engage ourselves in preparing a Crib and Star for Christmas. We go out singing Christmas carols, decorating the church, aid in cleaning the church; We participate in competitions at Deanery level and Bombay Province level. Besides we have many of our youth active in different associations of the parish like Parish Liturgy Team, Digital Ministry, Sunday school, music ministry etc.

In the near future we look forward to continuing with the same zeal that we have. Just like our Strenna 2023, says that the young people are the yeast in today's world, we try to work to influence, transform and make the human family grow into a better society and closer to God. So as we head forward we would continue to have a rock strong faith in the Lord in the footsteps that our father and guide Don Bosco laid in front of us.



Mr. Durran D'mello

*With Best Compliments
from:*



**AFCONS
INFRASTRUCTURE
LIMITED.**

**With Best
Compliments
from:**

Vyas & Family



Sunday School

Holy Father Pope Francis has said, “Go to Catechism to know Jesus better, it helps you know your friend Jesus better and to know his big family, which is the Church.”

Catechism is to impart the knowledge of God, to come in close intimacy with Jesus Christ, to live a life of the Gospel and share the life of the Holy Trinity. Sunday School works on deepening the knowledge of our Children about God and to strengthen their Christian faith. Faith Formation is an on-going activity from womb to tomb and we are all learners who can never cease to learn and love Jesus and his Church more everyday and every moment of our life.

The syllabus for Sunday school has been prepared by the Diocesan Catechetical Centre of the Archdiocese of Bombay called “*Faith Quest.*” The syllabus contains two sections – Primary section for Stds I to IV and the Secondary section from Stds V to X.

The Secondary section contains two cycles – Cycle A & Cycle B. Each cycle has 3 books for Stds V & VI, likewise for Std VII & VIII and IX and X. For the Confirmation there is a special book called – “*Confirmed and Initiated into Christ.*”

Besides catechizing from the above-mentioned books there are various different programmes held for the Sunday school children i.e. Bible Quiz competitions, Bible crosswords, adoration services, the Seasons of the Liturgical calendar as well as all the prayers are taught to the children.

Various activities and competitions are held during Lent, Advent, Christmas, and Diwali. Summer Camps during summer vacations, picnics, and the outreach programmes are organized.





The Sacramental classes also have the various RITEs conducted at Mass and during the SCC meetings, where children are welcomed and prayed over by the parishioners and the community. There are two weeks of Intensive training held just before Confirmation and First Holy Communion to prepare the candidates to receive the Sacraments religiously. After receiving the Sacrament of the First Holy Communion, children are trained to be part of the various ministries like altar servers, lectors, choir, legion of Mary, etc.

Like the Sunday school the Archdiocese has also prepared the catechism syllabus for the schools, where Catholic teachers in the school are trained to impart the faith to the children. There is also a fixed syllabus

for the Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for adult catechesis.

The course provided by the Archdiocese is called CTC – Catechist Training Course which is recognized worldwide. All Sunday School Catechists, religion teachers and RCIA catechists are expected to go through a year of training at the diocese level to equip them to impart the faith.

Our parish sends two to three catechists every year to attend this training course that would help in catechizing the Sunday school children more efficiently and appropriately. The Archdiocese conducts events for the catechists and the Sunday school children at the deanery levels. There are 17 deaneries in the whole of Bombay.





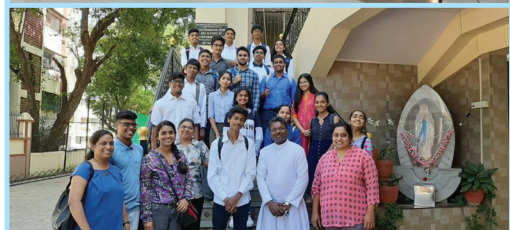
Our Parish belongs to the North Borivali Deanery consisting of 7 parishes.

The Archdiocese appoints a Priest and a lay person as the Deanery coordinator for each deanery, who act as a medium between the Diocese and the Parish. All the activities and lesson plans for the Sunday School are thus taught in uniformity all over the Archdiocese of Bombay.

Besides Sunday school, parents also teach and impart faith to their children at home. Infact parents are known to be the first teachers of faith. In today's fast pacing time where technology and media have taken priority in everyone's life, some where we have lost the traditions that children until the era of 80's & 90's have lived and grown, i.e. praying the family Rosary, lighting the Advent candle, having a family dinner and many more.



The Archdiocese, the Parish community, the Parish Pastoral Council and all the catechists at their individual levels try their best to train children right from Std I (age 4) till XI (age 17) when they are young teenagers stepping into adulthood.

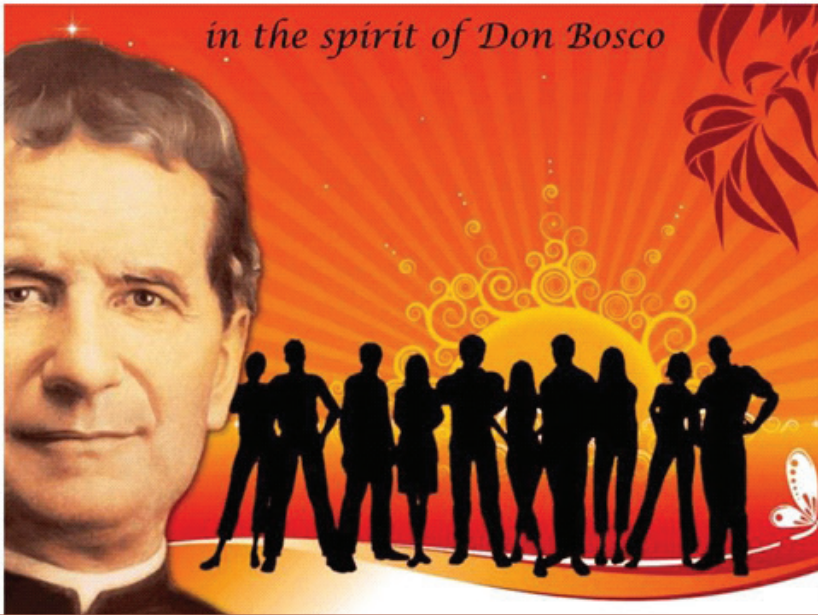


Last and certainly not least, the ultimate task that Sunday school strives to meet is to **help its students answer God's Call to Christian living**. Living a Christian life does not come automatically. It comes through study, worship, and learning together.

Mrs. Vina Prabhu

SALESIAN COOPERATORS, BORIVALI
As Yeast in Today's Family

Walking with ...and working for the poor young....



in the spirit of Don Bosco

*Come,
join
us to
help
make
the
world
a
better
place*

***Philippians 4:13,
I can do all things through Christ,
which strengthens me.***

With Best Compliments from:

Rashmi Dsouza

With Best Wishes & Compliments from:

Don Bosco Family Cell

Live **I**n **L**ove **A**nd **C**hrist

**Programme for Catholic Singles
Seeking Life Partners**

Registrations every Sunday between 9 - 10 a.m.

Family Cell Meetings:

Every 2nd Saturday of the month at 11 a.m.

With Best Compliments from:

**The Bombay Catholic Sabha
St. John Bosco Unit – Borivali (w)**

**Names of the Managing Committee members and Office Bearers
for the year 2022-2025**

Felix Aranha – Chairman

Fernando Menezes – Vice Chairman

Francis Pereira – Vice Chairman

Angela D'Souza – Secretary

Jason Aranha – Asst. Secretary

Bonny Dsouza – Treasurer

Yvonne Menezes – Jt. Treasurer

Adv. Raphael D'Souza (Past President of BCS)

Lucas D'mello (Past Chairman)

Dominic Chettiar (Past Chairman)

Angelo Nunes

Agnes D'Costa

Robert Nazareth

Anthony Dias

Betty Henricks

Bernard Fernandes

Warren Rebello

Blanche Dias

Anthony Fernandes

Francis Fernandes

Altar Servers

The Acolyte is the one who assists or serves the Priest or Deacon at the altar before, during, and after the Communion service. Altar server is known as an Acolyte. Alb is a long white robe worn by the Priest, Deacons and Altar Servers. Altar is the Holy table from which the priest presides over the Mass.

In the early Church, Acolytes were adult men who were preparing to become Deacons and Priests. As a shortage of Acolytes became apparent the Altar Servers' Ministry was created to aid parish communities in the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy. The motto of altar servers is "*AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM*" which means 'For the greater Glory of God'.

St. John Berchmans the founder of the Altar Servers quotes "If I do not become a saint when I am young I will never become one" St. Tarcisius was a twelve-year-old acolyte during one of the fierce Roman persecutions of the third century. At one point, there was no deacon to send and so St.



Tarcisius, was sent carrying the "Holy Mysteries" to those in prison. On the way, he was stopped by boys of his own age who were not Christians but knew him as a lover of games. He was asked to join them for games, but he refused and the crowd of boys noticed that he was carrying something. Somehow, he was also recognized as a Christian, and the small gang of boys, anxious to view the Christian "Mysteries," became a mob and turned upon Tarcisius with fury. He went down under the blows, and it is believed that a fellow Christian drove off the mob and rescued the young

boy. The mangled body of Tarcisius was carried back to the catacombs, but the boy died on the way from his injuries. He was buried in the cemetery of St. Callistus.



St Dominic Savio was an Altar server as well. He became an altar server at just 5 years of age. When he received communion, he began to live by the motto - “Death, but not sin”. He was a well behaved and self-disciplined person. He had extraordinary love for God. He spent hours in prayer and always used to say, “I can’t do big things. But I want all I do, even the smallest thing, to be for the greater glory of God.”



Few rules that the Altar Servers need to follow are to sit down properly during the Holy Mass, pay close attention to the priest, and be actively involved during the Holy Mass. All the altar servers are expected to know their prayers and participate during the Liturgical Services.



Parents and Servers must understand that serving at Mass is a great privilege

that demands the Altar Server to display model behaviour, manners and most especially reverence.

Every parish, and its Priest, hopes that every server enjoys their work of dedicated service, and that they have fun while doing so. But while there is a proper time for camaraderie and relaxed behaviour, there is also a proper time for prayerful silence, diligence and attentiveness.

From the moment an altar server is dressed in the “Alb” to the moment it is placed back they should put on a “game face.”



This means they should harness their energy and enthusiasm and direct it toward serving the Priest – who himself is serving in Persona Christi – in the type of dignified manner that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass deserves.

Mrs. Vina Prabhu

The Bombay Catholic Sabha

St. John Bosco Borivali Unit

Vision Statement – To create a Just Society through Involvement in Socio, Civic & Political Affairs

Our unit of the St. John Bosco Borivali of the BCS (Bombay Catholic Sabha) was started in the year 2000. The total strength in members in all units of Mumbai put together is 63,788, the membership count for our unit is 1,686 members.



The aims and objectives of the Sabha are

- To promote the Socio, Civic & Political, Cultural, Educational and general welfare of Catholics in particular and Christians in general
- To safeguard the legitimate rights, liberties and interests of the Christian community
- To make a representation to the public and private authorities in all matters affecting Christians

We are affiliated to the AICU (All India Catholic Union)

Our unit of the Bombay Catholic Sabha conducts:

- Annual Academic Awards
- Inter Faith Religious Dialogue
- Gorai Cross Feast Celebration
- Blood Donation Drive
- Seminars for specific audiences on skill development
- Beautification of the BMC Triangular Garden



- Civic Issues affecting our community
- Stand in solidarity on protests and issues affecting the Christian community
- Other Issues concerning the public bodies like Police, BMC and other Govt. functionaries.
- Give a voice to our community by interacting with political bodies including MPs, MLAs and Municipal Corporators
- Youth Activities like sports tournaments

We have an incredible achievement in winning the ‘Star Unit of the Borivali Deanery’ Awards for 10 years in a row!

Our very own Advocate Raphael D’souza has just served his tenure as the President of the Bombay Catholic Sabha representing all units in Mumbai

The Managing Committee conducts elections every 3 years and a core group of 20 working committee members are formed. These are currently headed by the Chairman of the Unit – Mr. Felix Aranha.

Parishioners above the age of 18 years are requested to become members of The Bombay Catholic Sabha paying one time payment of Rs 150/- for Life Membership.

Our BCS Annual General Meeting is held in the last Sunday of June. BCS monthly meeting is held at 9.00 am on every third Sunday of the month in AV Hall.

Mr. Jason Aranha

With Best Compliments from:

**Morris & Lorna Rodricks
Family**

With Best Compliments from:



**ROBERT & RENY NAZARETH
OLD MHB ZONE**

**With Best
Compliments
from:**

**Joseph Karumalil
MHB B Zone**

With Best Compliments from:
Terrence Ambosta



Pereira Elevators

**Govt. Approved P.W.D. Licence Contractor
All Types of Lift Maintenance, Modification,
Installation of Passenger / Goods / Hydraulic Lifts.**

Branch Office: A/19, Parasmani, Chikuwadi,
Borivali West, Mumbai 400092

Email: terrenceambosta56@gmail.com

9819102991 / 8850488493

Family Cell

St. John Bosco Church, Borivali (W)



The Archdiocese of Bombay started Family cells in every parish in order to build families into domestic church and make Christ the centre of every home. The Family Cell Unit of St. John Bosco Church was started in the year 2005 and revived in the year 2009. Currently we have 21 members enrolled in the Family Cell Unit.

Since then the cell has organised various events like Thanks-giving day, Voice Mania, World marriage day etc. Due to restrictions and Section 144 imposed during 2020 to 2022, the cell had to restrict all of our activities, but it did not deter our spirits. The members met regularly via online meeting from July 2020 and took delight in greeting each and everyone during the pandemic.

The Cell let no chance go wasted and organised few events as soon as the restrictions were lifted.

The following events were organised by Family Cell Unit during 2022.

FEBRUARY:

Renewal of Marriage Vows (World Marriage Day)

The 2nd Sunday in the month of February is celebrated as the World Marriage

Day. So, on the 13th of February 2022, the family cell animated the 10.30 a.m. mass, with renewal of marriage vows. The married couples of our parish were invited for the special mass through church announcements made on previous Sundays.

Due to the pandemic situation only 50 couples were allowed to partake in the Holy Eucharist, after which the cell members distributed cake slices and coffee for all those who were present.

JULY & DECEMBER:

LILAC

The Family Cell of our parish provides a platform for catholic singles of marriageable age seeking life partners. These catholic singles get an opportunity of knowing other catholic candidates whom they have never known before. This gives them a chance to marry within the catholic community. This event was conducted for the 11th and 12th time successfully by the cell in our parish on 10th July and 4th December 2022 respectively. Invitation letters were sent to parish priests of all 116 parishes in and around Mumbai and Thane districts inviting catholic singles to attend the program. There are around 60 participants in the month of July and around 110 participants making their way from all around the city. The candidates have a fun-filled time getting to know each other with ice breakers, getting to know sessions, speed dating etc. The feed-backs received from the candidates have always been overwhelming and it encourages us to give in our very best each time we organize this programme. We pray to the almighty that the younger generation forever Live In Love And Christ.

Forth coming events:

- 1) Renewal of Marriage Vows (World Marriage Day) 19th Feb 2023
- 2) Couples Retreat – Preacher- Fr. Ashwin Castelino.

Mrs. Veena Fernandes

SVP



The Society of St. Vincent De Paul (SVP) is one of the many groups at St. John Bosco Church. It is headed by President Precilla D’Costa. SVP has a team of eight zealous members working with and for the poor and underprivileged.

SVP supports 25 adopted families by providing them with monthly ration expenses. The members visit the families every month, especially the sick and aged, to ensure their well-being and pray with them.

Over the last year, SVP members regularly met every week and organized several activities and events. In September, we organized a fellowship event, which began with the Holy Eucharist followed by a potluck breakfast. We distributed the gifts offered by the parishioners during the novena preceding the Feast of Our Lady’s Nativity to the adopted families.

In October 2022, new members Diana Rosario and Felcy Mathiah took their oaths at St. Thomas Malankara Church, Dahisar. In December 2022, the members distributed food and money to the adopted families to share the love and joy of Christmas with them.

The year 2022 was a fulfilling year for SVP and we look forward to continuing our efforts in 2023.

Ms. Precilla D’Costa

Legion of Mary (Senior)

The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolate having 15 members in our parish. Our work which is for 2 hours weekly was hampered in the beginning of 2022 due to pandemic.

However, as time passed by, our apostolic work progressed. Our work is mostly visiting the sick and home bound, visiting hospitals, institutes like Shanti Dan, mothers-to- be, condolence visit, clergy home and home for the aged. We also visit homes of other faith. We pray the rosary in the months of May and October.

Two of our members are Eucharistic Ministers. Once a month we have half an hour adoration conducted by one of our members. In the month of September we celebrated Mother Mary's birthday. Carol Singing was organized during the Christmas week for the sick and homebound.

We would request those interested in being a member of the Legion of Mary to join us and contact any of the members.

Mrs. Anju D'Souza



• • • • • • • • • •

Legion of Mary (Juniors)

The Junior Legion of Mary group meets every Sunday at 10.30 am. The works carried out by them are home visit, distribution of Catholic literature, Altar servers, Carol singing (Home bound) and any work assigned by the Parish Priest. They also have various functions like training sessions, Study cum outing, Picnic, Acies (Promise), Reunion (Deanery level). We have 8 members on roll, of which 6 are from confirmation.

We would request youngsters those interested in being a member of the Legion of Mary to join us.

Mrs. Marissa Fernandes

Association Of Salesian Cooperators, Borivali Unit

The Borivali Unit of the Salesian Cooperators came into being on 13th October 1978. Since the last 42 years, the unit has grown in strength and spirit. At present, the strength of the Salesian Cooperators of our Borivali Unit is 34 active, and about 6 passive. Rev. Fr Solomon Rapol is our delegate and Mr. Francis Martin is the Co-ordinator of our unit. We meet in the AV hall on the third Saturday of every month at 5.30 pm. First and foremost, here is a brief history about our Association of Salesian Cooperators.



The Salesian Cooperators are the third branch of the Salesian Family founded by Don Bosco, in 1876. When Don Bosco started his oratory and his mission of working for the poor youth, he knew that besides his congregation, he would need the help of other committed lay people of goodwill to care for the children. He invited people who he felt had the talent and the desire to minister

to young people and formed the Association of Salesian Cooperators in 1876. We, the Salesian Cooperators, are single or married lay Catholic men and women, who live the Gospel message and dedicate themselves to the welfare of young people, and live guided by

Don Bosco's Salesian Spirit. The Salesian Co-operator embraces a Gospel way of life, sharing in the Church's mission to bring Christ to society, especially the young.

We are called to be the yeast in today's human family. We recognize the potential of the young



people to be catalysts in today's world. Just as yeast transforms the entire dough to make it flavor some, we also try to positively and dynamically influence, condition and transform the marginalized young, and help in building a more human and fraternal society.



In the past few years prior to onslaught of Covid, we Cooperators used to teach English to the poor young at Bosco Boys' Home Borivali. Due to the pandemic which ravaged the world since last two years, our activities had paused briefly. After the Covid threat has subsided, our unit has elected a new council in October 2022 and we have resumed our work in earnest. On December 26, 2022 in true Christmas spirit, we were a part of the Christmas party event organized on our school grounds, for the poor, less fortunate children living in slums around



Borivali. Seeing the gleeful smiles on their faces gave us immense happiness and satisfaction to be a part of their joy. On 8th January 2023, all the units and various branches of the Salesian family of Mumbai Province gathered together at Don Bosco, Kurla, to celebrate Salfam(Salesian Family) Day. We attend retreats and recollections 2-3 times a year to strengthen

our spirituality. Our last Recollection was on December 17, 2022 when our parish venerated the relics of young Blessed Carlo Acutis.

We have several units in various provinces and states of India and hundreds spread over many countries all over the world. We are sensitive and attentive to the situation of young people, and work creatively, collaboratively, and concretely to be the yeast in the human family. Like Don Bosco, we too invoke the aid of Mother Mary in all our endeavours. Mama Mary has always been the inspiration and support of every Salesian work, helping us to be faithful to the charism of Don Bosco and to carry out our Salesian mission responsibly.

We invite all those who are interested and committed to work for the young in the true Salesian spirit, to come join us in our work and mission. Come, be the yeast and transform the lives of the poor young.

Mrs. Geeta Menezes

*With Best
Compliments
from:*



Rebello & Family

With Best
Compliments
from:

WEATHER COOL SERVICES

**Sales & Installation of Airconditioners,
Residential & Centralized**

A-20/80, Siddha CHS Ltd., Siddharth Nagar,
Goregaon West, Mumbai 400062

Ph: 28723506/28761141/28764251

Email: wcs_2002@rediffmail.com

*With Best
Compliments
from:*



**Sunil Philip Rodrigues
& Family**

*With Best
Compliments from:*

**HOTEL
MARY JOEY**

Room, Villa, Family Restaurant & Bar

Goan, Indian, Sea Food & Chinese

Call: Joey D'Souza - 9820006320 / 8779705866

Jason D'Souza - 9768620084

POWER BACKUP AVAILABLE

Opp. Snow Park, Saunta Vaddo, Calangute, Baga, North, Goa-403516

Come and Worship



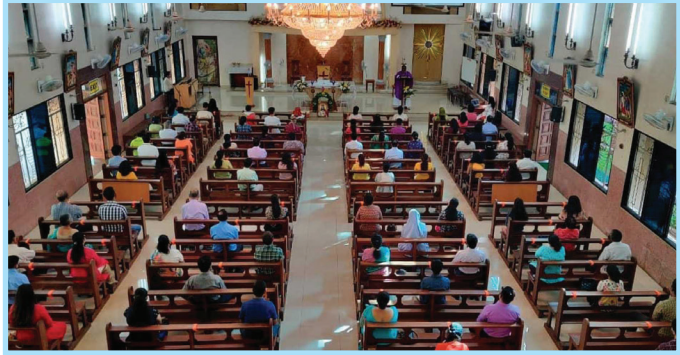
A group of Ushers is formed in every parish to ensure that the Eucharist services in the parish take place in a smooth and peaceful manner.

During the pandemic the churches faced a unique challenge of opening up as soon as the covid norms were lifted. The ushers were up for this challenge and made sure that Eucharistic services took place keeping all covid protocols in mind. The group met in the month of August 2020 to prepare and plan for the services as soon as permissions were granted by the authorities. Many suggestions came up during the meeting. One of the suggestions that came up was, of having masses at multiple locations. A list of equipments needed to ensure the safety of the parishioners was made and ordered for the parish. The list included masks, sanitisers, stands for sanitisers, spray bottles to sanitise the church, hand gloves etc. Sanitisers took place of water fonts, hymn books were not allowed for the celebrations so they were collected and kept at the back of the church so that the parishioners could not use them. Every statue in the church was blocked so that the parishioners would not touch them.

On November 29, 2020 permissions were granted to allow 50 people for every Eucharistic celebration. The group assembled in the church to demark all the seating and non seating places distinctly. A video on the seating arrangement was also released for the comfort of the parishioners. The group also decided to sanitise the entire church after every service and also ensured that there were atleast 6 – 8 ushers for every service that took place in church. Mass timings were changed so that there was a 15 minute window for sanitizing the church. Senior citizens and children below the age group of 12 were not allowed for the Eucharistic celebrations

as per guidelines given by the authorities.

And so, on November 29, 2021 Feast of Christ the King, we began with silent adoration for all the parishioners who wanted to visit the church once again. The ushers kept a



watchful eye on the proceedings to make sure that there were not more than 50 people at any given time during the day. There was a moving crowd hence it did not create much of a problem.

Christmas, New year and Easter Masses were held during the pandemic.

There are 900 families (roughly around 3500 – 4000 parishioners) that belong to St. John Bosco parish. During Christmas, New Year and the Holy week services we have around 2500 – 3500 parishioners attending the services outdoors. During the pandemic the parish team decided to celebrate the Eucharist at multiple locations. 3 locations were selected for the same and 4 Eucharistic services were decided to be celebrated at each location. The ushers decided to send out Google forms for every mass and locations for the convenience of the parishioners, keeping in mind the age group, the timing and the number of people allowed per mass. Registration desks were setup to avoid long lines of parishioners before the start of every service.

Ushers were appointed for every service that took place during the pandemic from Sunday masses, wedding nuptials, funeral services etc. Many of the ushers formed a habit to attend 4 to 5 back to back Eucharistic service on Sundays.

Daily services (7 a.m. and 7 p.m.) resumed from November 2021 onwards with novenas to our Lady of Perpetual Succor every Wednesday and the various prayer groups meetings in the church.

There are 20 ushers in the group who till date take their ministry seriously and perform their duties putting up a brave front without expecting anything in return. This pandemic gave us a good opportunity to serve God and community. It was a divine and unique experience partaking in back to back services all for the glory of God.

Mr. Anthony Fernandes

Shanti Sagar Charismatic Hindi Prayer Group

Come one, Come all open to the Spirit !

It is said where one or more meet in God's name, He is present there. People come for prayer organized by Shanti Sagar Charismatic Hindi Prayer Group, to find comfort in the Lord.



The Shanti Sagar Charismatic Hindi Prayer Group conducts prayer service every Wednesday, where Catholics and people of other faith come and join in the praise and worship, healing prayer and the word of God preached during the service with faith and hope in the Lord. There is active participation from everyone.

The members are involved in different activities such as reciting the rosary, online prayer on Tuesdays, prayer at Shanti Dan on every Thursday, evangelisation work, counselling, training program, retreat, etc.

Christmas party with Shanti Daan inmates, celebration of Cross feast, preparation of Crib at the Gorai Cross are some of the highlights of the group.

The Co- members and disciples meet together once a month to plan the upcoming events.

To get to know all the people attending the prayer much better and feel as one family, the group organizes picnic yearly and get-togethers for Easter and Christmas.

Shanti Sagar Charismatic Hindi Prayer Group organised Christmas party on January 4, 2023. Nearly 150 children and people of all groups came together wearing colorful clothes to enjoy the gathering. Children enjoyed the cake cutting the most among all the other activities. The young and old took part in the games. All were in a festive mood enjoying themselves and happy with the food and sweets served.

Shanti Sagar Charismatic Hindi Prayer Group welcomes each and every member of the parish to join us to spread the Word of God in faith and hope.

Ms. Sunita Pillai

Oratory at Don Bosco Borivali

In today's world we all are so pre-occupied with our activities that we hardly have any time to look around and notice someone in need. All of us will agree that we are hooked-up to our mobiles and internet and always have an excuse that we have no time. The fact is that if one has the will to serve others then he/she will find time.

The Prayas Kendra wing of St. John Bosco Church under the guidance of its Rector, Fr. Solomon Rapol is rendering services to the marginalised residing in the slums. In the villages people driven by poverty, come to cities in search of employment, to make savings and one day return to their village but their dream never materialises and they end up settling in shanties which keep growing, poverty and lack of education being their stumbling blocks to growth.

Prayas Kendra has extended a helping hand to these people by conducting study classes for their children and encouraging them to send their children to study. These children are quite talented but are in need of a right channel. We also conduct tailoring classes to encourage the women-folk to earn a living. Financial assistance is also provided to those in need. Due to unhygienic living conditions, there exist many health issues especially to the children and women. Volunteers from Prayas Kendra regularly visit them, speak to them, create a bond of trust with them, due to which they are able to discuss and disclose their social and economic problems. These volunteers in consultation with their mentor try to work in the direction of finding amicable solution to their problems.

Efforts are being made to loop in more volunteers for this noble cause in order to expand our area of coverage. Appeal is also made to friends from our parish to contribute in whatever way possible to support our mission. We hope our efforts will certainly bear fruits !

Mrs. Natal Fernandes

A ministry that is, 'Beyond' what is usual, ordinary and regular!



Here is a short reflection on my journey of becoming an “Extraordinary Minister” at the St. John Bosco Parish Borivali. It started a couple of years back during the pandemic, I saw the need of getting Jesus to everyone who is eager to receive him in whatever capacity they can at home.

Earlier last year, in one of the youth meetings we were asked to volunteer to be Extraordinary Minister. At that very moment I felt that it was my call to take Jesus to everyone who have faith in him. I immediately raised my hand to volunteer. I was extremely happy and at the same time nervous if I can serve the lord in his ministry. The question I had was, Will people accept a young Eucharistic Minister?



Soon we were called for a meeting to understand the role and responsibilities. The first meeting was extremely welcoming and comforting. I was happy that I was among them; at the same time nervous if I am worthy it. I chose to focus on the good, the good that allowed me to be happy among the extraordinary ministers.



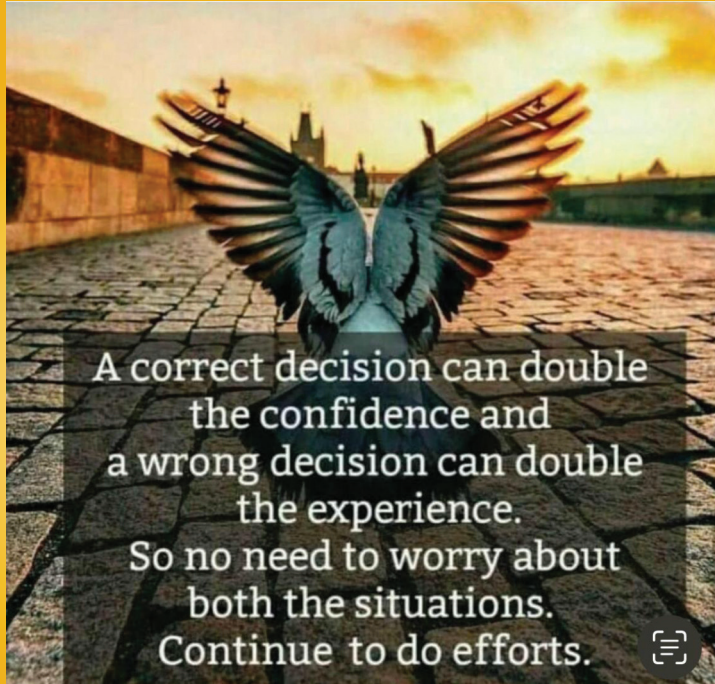
To begin with, there were multiple insightful sessions by Fr. Solomon Rapol, Fr. Renold Lemos and Bro. Santan Fernandes. These sessions helped me build confidence, faith, and responsibility to take the next step of commitment. We decided to meet every month to discuss how we could improve the service of the ministry, how we can reach out to more people in need, and how we can stand out from the regular crowd being an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC). Each of the 26 - EMHC, 3 sisters from St Anne's and a brother from Goregaon seminary were willing to give their time and make sure to accommodate most requests that were made during these meetings. Looking at all these, my decision of joining the ministry grew stronger. The recollection that Fr. Rapol and Fr. Lemos took for us were the highlights of the training session during these months.

Then came the day of commissioning. Everything we learned and heard during the session came to light on the day when we six new ministers gave our first service to the Lord. There is no word that can explain the emotion, joy, and happiness each of us went through.

We visit home-bound and sick members from our parish. It is a surreal moment for all of us. The families have been welcoming and always eager to receive Jesus.

Through this ministry, I have learned to be humble, think before I speak, keep a watch on everyone around me in need, and most importantly be empathetic.

Ms. Diksha Punjabi



A correct decision can double
the confidence and
a wrong decision can double
the experience.
So no need to worry about
both the situations.
Continue to do efforts.



From a Well Wisher

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS



DON BOSCO YOUTH MOVEMENT - BORIVALI

Today we look back with happiness and pride upon twenty five years that we have spent side by side. We thank God for his presence in our lives and his precious gift of our son to us.

With a Grateful heart

**JAMES & DOROTHY
CHETTIAR**

OUR LADY OF VAILANKANI SCHOOL

**invites application
for admission,
Nursery to Std VII.**

Forms are available in the
school office from
02nd February
09:30 am to 10:30 am only.

Phone: 8291611028

*With Best
Compliments from:*

**Elias Gonsalves
& Family**

*With Best
Compliments from:*

**Dominic Chettiar
& Family**

Digital Ministry

The Digital Ministry plays an important part in enabling the congregation to praise God by presenting the hymns and prayers during the Eucharist digitally in power point presentation.

Our service in the Church is for helping the entire congregation to participate in the mass actively.

We project the hymns that are selected by the choir or the Priest, for the mass.

During high Masses on the ground the Digital Ministry handles the changing of the main screen on the Altar, that is switching between what is shown by the camera person and the hymns. We also show certain prayers and responses.

Ours is a service to help people praise and glorify God and help the entire congregation participate in the Eucharist vibrantly.

People well versed in digital technology are welcome to join the Digital Ministry.

Ms. Rini Aranha



The one who sings prays twice – St. Augustine

After two morbid years of the Covid-19 pandemic ravaging the world and halting our Eucharistic services, we finally resumed our choir services in church last year. It was truly incredible to have our children singing once again for the Eucharistic celebrations at our parish.

We began the year by singing for St. John Bosco's Feast mass on 31st January 2022, which was celebrated by our beloved Bishop Barthol Barretto. Later that year, we also sang for the Confirmation and



Communion mass and few other feast celebrations. The choir resumed its weekly practices from June 2022, every Friday at 7:30pm.

On December 3, 2022 we had the opportunity of singing for the Golden Jubilee Eucharistic Celebrations of the Salesian Province of Bombay at Don Bosco Matunga. The choir comprised of 50 choristers, including children from our parish choir as well as those from the school and college. It was an exhilarating experience! As the year came to an end, we sang for a fruitful New Year at the midnight mass under the guidance of our choirmaster, Fr. Aloysius Furtado.

We also sing for weddings, funerals and various other occasions held at the parish to enhance the Eucharist in the best possible way!

We're an ever-growing and friendly choir that believes in creating wonderful music for the glory of our Lord!

Ms. Pranali Bhosle



Vocation

Is Christ knocking on the door of your Heart?

And He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
-Mathew 9:37-38.

There was a time when the Catholic Church flourished with ample vocations. Having a priest or a nun in the family was a blessing indeed. The spiritual needs of the church and the devotees were aptly fulfilled and all this was possible because they said “Yes” to the call of the Lord.

Here in our Parish, we have a team dedicated to getting young minds to discern His call. Father Renold Lemos leads a team of 6 members. The team is involved in organizing retreats for the students of the high school. Also, a group of students were encouraged to participate in a “Come and See” camp held at Lonavala. Regular follow-ups as well as home visits have helped the team understand and identify some prospective candidates. While we work with young minds, we get

first-hand experience of how grim the situation is and how difficult the days ahead seem to be.

And so through this medium, I wish to urge the youth.....

DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE,

Wait no longer; do not let the best part of your life pass you by. Many people are awaiting you who need your joy, your willingness, and the gift of yourself. They are not asking you to perform heroic acts, rest assured; you will receive much more than you could ever give. This is why you are needed: Christ needs you to love. Respond like Mary by giving your total “yes” in faith and humility; like Mother Soledad: without fear, without limits, without counting the cost.

Mrs. Neelam Rodrigues



Events and Happenings at Gorai 2

The St. Martins de Porres community of Gorai-2 had a list of events that were planned from October to December 2022. The long string of events that took place were as follows:

- 1) Visit of our Lady (October Rosary)
- 2) Mission Fete (October)
- 3) Novena to St. Martin de Porres & Annual Get-together (November)
- 4) Community Star & Carol Singing (December)



All these events started with the visit of our Lady to every home in the community from 1 to 31 of October. The October Rosaries were a build up and instrumental in a step- up to our next event i.e. novena in preparation for the feast of our zone St. Martin de Porres. The nine days novena was conducted at Shantidaan

from the 28th of October to the November 5, 2022 at 8.00 p.m. This novena culminated in a well attended annual feast of St. Martin de Porres on the 6th of November. The members of the zone animated the 10.30 a.m. mass and proceeded thereafter for a zonal gathering on the Banana Court. Games, Spot prizes and a surprise Miming Show were organised by one of our member Mr. George D'souza, after which lunch was served and the event concluded successfully. The members were quick enough to plan



for the Christmas season, in making a star for the zone and the long awaited carol singing. The zonal star was up and ready in the community on the 19th and the carol singing was planned for the 22nd of December. Members attended the mass at 7.00 p.m. on the 22 December after which we began singing the Christmas carols in the parish premises. One of our members Mr. Francis Fernandes was generous in lending the karaoke system which made this event a grand success. The group of 30 members mounted on a well decorated truck and proceeded towards the community, which were eagerly waiting for us at different spots in the zone. Our first stop was at the Cross at Gorai creek, then we sang at the office of Shweta Korgaonkar our present Municipal corporator, after which we sang at Shiva Shetty's office. We also had a stop at the BJP office and finally ended our journey at the exact point where we had put up our zonal star. We sang the Christmas carols for the delight of all our non-catholic brothers, sisters and all the children who came forward to Santa for their share of sweets. The troupe ended the day with a delicious and sumptuous supper kheema-pav prepared by one of our zonal member Marissa Fernandes. We are grateful and thankful to our Zonal leaders Edmund D'souza, Dorothy Chettiar, Durran D'mello, Joya Kombathula, Sydney Quadros and Michael Rodrigues for all their time and efforts that they have rendered in making our zone vibrant and active. We also thank the parish team of all the priests for their timely help and support shown towards the zone. May God bless all of them abundantly.

Forth coming event: Zonal way of the Cross.

Mr. Edmund D'souza & Mrs. Dorothy Chettiar

Gorai - 3 Zone Events

Gorai 3 Zone is fondly called the Mother Teresa zone named after our patron saint Mother Teresa under the direction of Fr Renold Lemos.



- The members have participated in a gamut of events throughout the year; Zonal Rosary, Mission Fete, Football and Throwball, Bosco Nite, Way of the cross, Novenas, SCC meetings and most importantly the Annual Zonal Feast.
- One can witness the never dying spirit of the zone in the annual zonal feast celebrated on Sunday following the feast of Mother Teresa in September. We celebrate our togetherness and belonging with pomp and gaiety through games, dances, talent shows and a sumptuous lunch. A day definitely worth remembering.
- The generosity of the zone can be witnessed through the collections for mission fete and donation of food items at stalls.
- The zonal spirituality can be experienced during Lent with way of the cross every week and in the month of October, we pray the rosary every day and for special needs of 2 families of the zone.
- Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, Communion, Awards, talents are all celebrated here and remembered.

As we look forward to our zonal picnic, more participation in SCC events this year



and a new zonal representative to take the zone forward, we thank God for the year gone by and the moments we have cherished together and the gift of this zone.

Mr. Sunil Alvares

*With Best
Compliments from:*



Shree Interior
Mandar Prabhudesai
9922246722
www.shreeinteriors.co.in

*With Best
Compliments from:*



**Sarika & Prashant
Gonsalves Family**

*With Best
Compliments from:*



Nobel Dsouza

*With Best Compliments
From:*

USHERS

St. John Bosco Church - Borivli (W)



OLD MHB – Holy Family Community

We are the Holy Family Community, and in keeping with our title, strive to strengthen the bonds of unity and spirituality within our family units and in the community. We have 64 families across 3 zones and are assisted ably by our zonal leaders Lata, Janet and Anto. We are spiritually guided by Fr. Renold Lemos and Sr. Mariala.

Our Zonal Leaders are extremely dedicated and take the efforts to render service and updates to all our members. Some of our activities include the Annual Thanksgiving mass with a get together, Community Rosary in the month of October in every home. The members of our community visited the Dilkush Orphanage during the Lenten season, spent time with the inmates and provided them with some essential supplies. Our last Annual picnic was at the Farmhouse at Gorai which was a fun filled event. We also actively participated in the various Church activities and received the 2nd Prize in the Don Bosco Fete in the year 2019 for team participation.

We have a vibrant WhatsApp group created by Robert Nazareth which serves as a source of quick updates on all community topics. Robert never fails to post wishes of all individual milestones within our community (birthdays, anniversaries etc.) and this helps all to extend wishes and blessing to the members, making their day extra special. Most of the Community members are enrolled in the Bombay Catholic Sabha, thanks to Robert.

We are grateful to Don Bosco Church and all our priests who have helped to build and nurture our community so effectively

Mrs. Lata Kharat



Events held in our Vazira Zone

Events have direct and indirect impacts on communities. They provide opportunities for participation, skill development, volunteering, social, cultural economic and environmental developments. These events can teach, unite families, fundraise and help each other financially, emotionally and spiritually.

Charity

Charity is essential and therefore meant to be done in zones and the churches. It is the act of extending love and kindness to others unconditionally. Regular charity drives were carried out by members who volunteer to raise funds



to help families in our zone with financial and emotional needs. We are also very grateful to Sr. Kalpana for providing assistance and relief to family members of our zone.

Stations of the Cross

Praying the 14 Stations of the Cross is a devotion of hope. It's about walking a spiritual journey with Jesus Christ. People honour the sacrifice of Jesus by walking the Stations of the Cross. During Lent, in the month of March, we gathered at the church to pray and reflect upon the Stations of the Cross, followed by walking through our zone with visit to 6 families with personal prayers and devotions. We are very grateful to Fr. Renold Lemos, Ms Michelle and volunteers for their help and assistances. Cheers to them.

Women's day

Women are the backbone for a progressing church. Women are the primary decision- makers when it comes to families and children. They all need to have enjoyable time of fellowship. So a woman's day celebration was held in our zone in the month of April. Games, quiz session, housie and singing were held, which showcased their talents and enthusiasm. It concluded with prize distribution, snacks and a thank you address to appreciate their grit, hard work they impart to the family and nation as a whole. God bless their appreciation for unconditional efforts.

Get-together

Besides work, prayer, and dedication we involve ourselves in Zonal events



conducted by our parish. Fr. Renold and Ms Michelle organized the Annual Thanksgiving Day in the month of August with fun, songs, snacks, games, dances and other activities to entertain members. It concluded with family dinner for a job well done.

Rosary

We devoted the month of October to our Blessed Mother Mary by reciting the Holy Rosary. This is the perfect time for us to reflect upon its significance in our walk of faith. It's a powerful prayer, that can change life, strengthen the family and bring peace to the world. We gathered to recite the rosary at the residence of Mr Philip, 25 members were present for the rosary. Sr. Kalpana opened the session with an opening hymn. It concluded with snacks and fellowship. Fr. Renold graced the occasion.

Conclusion; Conducting Zonal Events are crucial and vital in encouraging members to participate in church activities, community engagement and church growth.

I would like to express a note of “THANK YOU” to all who made this happen in our zone.

Bunch of flowers containing love, warmth, prayers and blessing be bestowed upon our spiritual heads Fr. Renold and Sr. Kalpana, our zonal rep. Ms Michelle and to our loyal, dedicated team of volunteers for their continued support. They are the backbone of any fellowship activities. God bless you all.

Mr. Philip Pereira

St. Dominic Savio Zone (L. T. Road zone) – Together we Work, Pray, and Grow

L. T. Road zone is the smallest zone in our parish with just 17 families; however the enthusiasm and participation of its members make up for the small numbers.

The patron saint of our zone is our beloved Salesian, St. Dominic Savio. We, the community members of St. Dominic Savio Zone love and venerate our patron saint and try to emulate his life in our daily lives.

The zone members are active participants in various associations including the Salesian Cooperators, Eucharistic Ministers, Family Cell, English Prayer Group, Hindi Prayer Group, Altar Servers, Lectors, etc. Our SCC meetings have good attendance in spite of the small number of families. The members participate actively in the monthly SCC meeting which are held monthly.

In the past year our zone participated in various parish activities :

1. The dynamic ladies / girls of our zone participated in the Throwball Tournament along with 2 other zones combined we won the trophy.
2. Members generously donated to the Missions and participated in the Mission Sunday Fete selling delicious food items.
3. The zone celebrated their annual thanksgiving mass followed by a get-together. Members who made an extra effort for the zone were felicitated with gifts.
4. Members also participated in the various Novenas, Feasts and other activities organized by the parish.

We pray that we continue working together to build a strong community and a vibrant church. May we always rejoice in our fellowship and be true witnesses of Christ by showing our love for each other.

Ms. Melrina Mascarenhas



Our Lady of Mercy Community, Chikuwadi



Our Lady of Mercy Community is located at Chikuwadi. At present Rev. Fr. Solomon Rapol is the Spiritual Leader of our Community and Sr. Stevia from St. Anne's Convent, Borivili, has been allotted to guide us. Feast of "Our Lady of Mercy" is on 25th September. Every year we offer the Annual thanks giving mass and celebrate it with Zonal get together followed by lunch/ dinner. About 100 members join the Annual thanks giving mass/ celebration of Eucharist and Zonal get together. Chikuwadi Zone has 85 families. This Zone has been divided into A, B & C zones.

Rocky Miranda is the Zonal Leader of Chikuwadi "A" zone since 2016 till date Ms Rosebell Ambosta is the Zonal leader of Chikuwadi "B" zone since 2018 and Mr Melwyn George is the Zonal leader of Chikuwadi "C" Zone since 2016 They jointly take the decision on the activities of the Zone.

Our Zonal members arrange for Rosary at the time of taking the statue of Mother Mary from house to house in procession, Rosary in front of Zonal Crib at the time of Christmas every year. We install a 9 feet height Christmas Star at the Shimpoli Link road Junction in Chikuwadi. We have our SCC meetings regularly and many members join and participate in these meetings.

Many of our Zonal members are active members of various associations, Music ministry, Choir etc. in our Church. Many of them are lectors. Many members join in the Christmas carol singing and visit the houses of sick and old in our community and handover the Cake to them at that time. Our community has won the Best performance award in the Parish. Thus "Our Lady of Mercy" community is an active, vibrant community of our Parish.

Yogi Nagar North – Holy Trinity Zone

Our zone is divided into 4 parts led by 4 zonal representatives – Precilla D’costa (A), Angela D’souza (B), Felix Aranha (C) and Ciana Vaz (D). In total, our zone comprises of 80 families. The geographical limits of the zone extends from Yogi Nagar to Devki Nagar.



“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much”. With a talented and committed group of families, our community regularly meets and works together to make this a vibrant community of faithful.

Our SSC Meeting is held every 3rd Tuesday/Wednesday of the month and has been a guiding light for our discussions and activities.

We form a very active group of families that represent various faculties within our parish like the Legion of Mary, Salesian Co-operators, St. Vincent De Paul, Lectors, Choir Members, Eucharistic Ministers, Youth Group, Sunday School and the Bombay Catholic Sabha. Our members have taken leadership roles in some of these organizations.



“A little help with a little smile gives meaning to human life.” Our members love to serve, visit the sick, home-bound, hospitals, old age homes, and the local prison as part of various initiatives of the parish.

“Celebrate endings—for they precede new beginnings.” Our zone brought in the Christmas cheer by having Carol singing while passing through all the buildings within our community. A 10 Foot Christmas Star was also hung at the main intersection at the entrance of the zone.

The commitment and spirit of the community shine through and give us a new meaning in this new year.

Mr. Felix Aranha

Gorai -1 Get Together



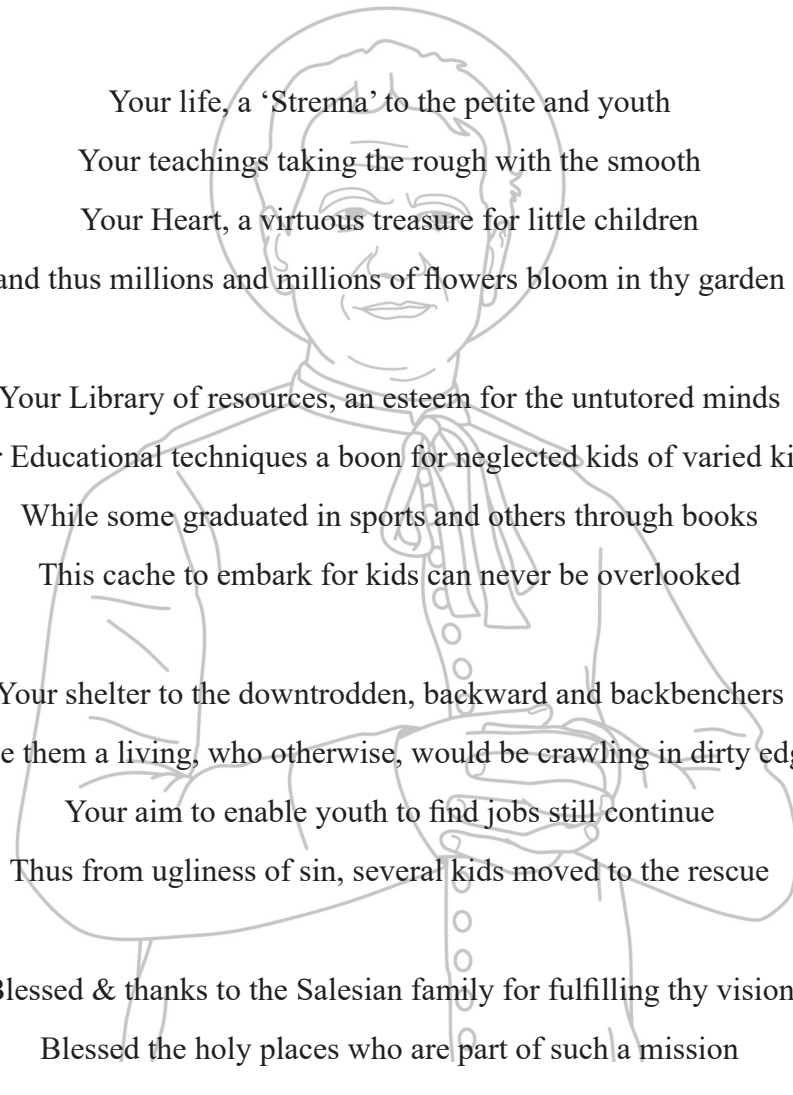
Matthew 18:20

“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst”.

A special Get-Together was organized by Gorai-1 Zone. More than 80 people were present. This included church service followed by snacks. It was a wonderful day.

Gathering together gives us the opportunity to inspire and encourage one another. Let’s be honest, if there was ever a time when we need to encourage one another, it would be now. God has created in us the need to attend together. In times like this, gathering together can help us regain our sanity. There’s just something about being together that calms us down, makes us feel connected and whole, and simply allows us to breathe again.

Patron Saint John Bosco.....



Your life, a 'Strenna' to the petite and youth
Your teachings taking the rough with the smooth
Your Heart, a virtuous treasure for little children
and thus millions and millions of flowers bloom in thy garden

Your Library of resources, an esteem for the untutored minds
Your Educational techniques a boon for neglected kids of varied kinds
While some graduated in sports and others through books
This cache to embark for kids can never be overlooked

Your shelter to the downtrodden, backward and backbenchers
Gave them a living, who otherwise, would be crawling in dirty edges
Your aim to enable youth to find jobs still continue
Thus from ugliness of sin, several kids moved to the rescue

Blessed & thanks to the Salesian family for fulfilling thy vision
Blessed the holy places who are part of such a mission
Blessed are those who are educated from such an institution
Blessed are we parishioners to be part of such an organization

Joyce DMello

**As the yeast in today's human family
-The lay dimension of the Family of Don Bosco**

**You look around and see a crumbling world,
Hate is all around and abuses freely hurled;
When all need hope but have none,
When people are lonely
In spite of being surrounded by people forever on the run;
When you want to help but feel too weak,
When you are feeling tired and hope is bleak;
When all else fails, do what Don Bosco did,
Turn to Mother Mary and your problems will get rid;
She will show you the way,
Take away the fear and dread,
rise above the rest, be like yeast in the bread;
Just like yeast does wonders to flour,
You can help others in their difficult hour;
We the laity in the Salesian family play an important part,
We need to reach out to others and show them hope,
a new start; To lend a helping hand,
to be there for someone to take a stand;
To be a ray of hope for those in the dark,
To bring that cheer to add that spark;
To help the less fortunate children, To lead the youth,
To show them love and teach them the truth;
To walk hand in hand with the Priests,
To reach out to abandoned youth in the streets;
To be the reason for someone to smile,
To help someone in need, to walk that extra mile;
To shield the weak and help in woe,
To do what yeast does to a small amount of dough;
To be what Don Bosco was and wanted us to be,
So that others may through us Jesus see.**

-Rini Aranha

Down Memory Lane.....

The other day, as I ambled around the school's main gate
I stood aside watching children rush in to avoid being 'late'

A blink of my eyelashes
the next 15 to 20 seconds, old memories flashes

*“Reminiscing the good old school days
& the event being ‘Sports Day’
We, girls with knee length skirts and hair plaits,
fiddling with the tie hanging on our toes
While we sat, class wise on the ground
echoing & cheering the events all-round
Our class teacher walking besides our row
moving tenderly and slow
Despite our tantrums - stormy and wild
Her watchful eyes on every child
No sooner than our classmates won a race
In unison we jumped from the surface
Teacher did caution us to stay calmer
as it would be disturbing the guest of honor.”*

Suddenly there was a shrill horn
A car, waiting to enter the school lawn
I jumped out from my dreamy gaze
& hurriedly moved aside in haste
Pretending to peep into my mobile
I left that place with a smile:
Biting my lips, patting my forehead,
to myself thus I said
“Memory, special was your glow
Indeed beautiful that flow”

Joyce DMello

जीवनाचा एक अनुभव 'सहनशक्तींचा महामेरू'

माझे पती श्री. रमेश बी खरात. मी त्यांची पत्नी श्रीमती लता खरात माझे लग्न सन १९७९ साली झाले. माझे पती त्यावेळेस शरीराने अतिशय नाजूक व अशक्त होते. वयाच्या दुसऱ्या वर्षापासून छातीचे दुखणे त्यांच्या मागे लागले. लहानपणी ते त्यांच्या आईच्या कडेवर असताना, अचानक वीज कडाडली त्यामुळे आई घाबरली व ते आईच्या कडेवरून खाली पडले. तेव्हा पासून वयाच्या १८ व्या वर्षापर्यंत श्वसनाचा त्रास सुरु झाला सतत दम लागणे, ताप येणे सुरु झाले. घरातले सारेजण त्यांची काळजी घेत. सततच्या तापाने त्यांची फुफ्फुसे कमजोर झाली तरीही अशा परिस्थितीत बी. ए. पर्यंतचे शिक्षण पूर्ण केले आणि हिंदी राष्ट्रभाषेत प्राविण्य मिळवले.

वयाच्या २१ व्या वर्षी त्यांचे मोठे भाऊ श्री. विजय यांनी 'सॅरेडॉनच्या रोश' कंपनीत त्यांना कामाला लावले. भावाने त्यांना गावाहून मुंबईला आणले व नोकरीला लावले. मोठ्या वहिनीने -सांभाळले म्हणून ते दोघांचे कायम ऋणी राहिले. औषधी कंपनीत काम आणि तेथील थंड वातावरण त्यामुळे पुन्हा कफ, खोकल्याचा त्रास सुरु झाला. आजारपण सुरु झाले. अशाही स्थितीत २५ वर्षे नोकरी पूर्ण केली. मी त्यांना नेहमी म्हणत असे तुम्ही नोकरी बदलायला हवी होती. तुमच्याकडे, शिक्षण होते. तीव्र बुद्धिमत्ता होती. तुम्ही ही नोकरी का केली ?

माझ्या पतीचे स्वतःचे विचार खूपच प्रगत होते. स्वतःचे विशिष्ट नियम होते. संसार करायचा असेल तर होणाऱ्या पतीने स्वतःचे छोटेसे घर घ्यावे. स्वतः संसारासाठी लागणारा पैसा योग्य मार्गाने कमवावा. पत्नी नोकरी करणारी असावी कारण संसारात कधी काय होईल हे कळत नाही. तेव्हा एकाचे तरी उत्पन्न चालू असावे. म्हणूनच त्यांनी लग्नाआधी घर घेतले आणि शिक्षित म्हणून नोकरी करणाऱ्या माझ्याशी लग्न पत्नी ?

जीवनात पैसा खूप महत्वाचा असतो. तो योग्य मार्गाने कमवून योग्य प्रकारे कसा साठवावा, कसा वापरावा हे मी त्यांच्याकडून शिकले. ते योग्य ठिकाणी पैसा बरोबर खर्च

करीत त्यात उधळपट्टी नव्हती आणि कंजूषपणाही नव्हता. पगार झाल्यानंतर घरी आल्यावर पूर्ण पैसे ते माझ्या हातात देत मला या गोष्टीचे कौतुक वाटे ते म्हणत, तू या पेशात बरोबर घर चालवशील. पतीचा आपल्या पत्नीवर विश्वास असावा आणि पत्नीनेही त्याच्या विश्वासास पात्र ठरावे. हा त्यांचा उदात्त हेतू. प्रत्येक माणसाने आयुष्यात चौकस असावे. शुद्ध हेतूने जगावे असे ते म्हणत.

माझे पती, श्री. रमेश यांना प्रत्येक नवीन माहिती मिळवण्यास खूप आवडे. वाचलेली, ऐकलेली कोणतीही गोष्ट कॉम्प्युटर प्रमाणे ते डोक्यात साठवून ठेवत असत त्यामुळे त्यांची स्मरणशक्ती एकदम तल्लख होती व वागणे अतिशय निर्मळ होते. कोणताही वाईट हेतू मनात नसे. बोलणे एकदम स्पष्ट त्यामुळे इतरांना कधी राग येत असे त्यांना फार त्यांचा खरा हेतू कुठला हे कळल्यावर लोकही राग विसरून जात. स्वच्छता, टापटीपपणा याची आवड होती. त्यांचे आई-वडील माझे आई वडील दोन्हीकडे नातेवाईक मित्र परिवार या सर्वांवर प्रेम गप्पा-गोष्टी करण्याची त्यांना खूपच आवड होती. लहानपणीचे आठवणीतले किस्से गमतीदारपणे सांगताना ऐकणारे सारे समरस होत. मित्रांचा सहवास अधिक प्रिय होता. त्यांना अडीअडचणीत मदत करणे, योग्य सल्ले देणे खूप आवडत असे. 'मित्र' म्हणजे त्यांचे कुटुंबच !

त्यांचे छातीचे दुखणे संतत चालूच असे. प्रामाणिकपणे सारी औषधे घेत असत. वर्षातून तीन-चार वेळा हॉस्पिटल मध्ये अॅडमिट करावे लागे. कफाचे प्रमाण वाढले की खूप त्रास होई. पण बरे झाल्यावर पुन्हा आनंदाने गप्पा-गोष्टीत सामील होत.

मी त्यांना नेहमी म्हणत असे. जीवनाला मी तुमच्याबरोबर मी हॉटेलपेक्षा हॉस्पिटलमध्ये जास्त गेलेय. तेव्हा ते हसून म्हणत, तू आहेस म्हणून मी आहे. मला वाटे मी तर फक्त सेवा करतेय पण ते तर प्रत्यक्ष दुःख भोगत होते.

संसारात आमचीही नोक-झोक, वाद-विवाद बरेच होत. त्यावेळी ते म्हणत संसारात भांडणे हवीत पण ती लगेच मिटवावीत. एकाने रागावले तर दुसऱ्याने शांत रहावे. चूक असल्यास माफीही मागावी परंतु टोकाचे निर्णय घेऊ नयेत कारण राग सर्व संसाराची

राख करतो. माझ्या सासूबाई तर त्यांना 'माझा वकील आहे तो!' असे म्हणत.

जीवनाचे चढ-उतार चालूच असत. त्यात मिस्टरांना अजून एका दुःखद प्रसंगाला सामोरे जावे लागले. जीवनाच्या मध्यावर असताना मोटारसायकल वरून त्यांचा अपघात झाला. त्यामुळे डोक्याला मार लागला आणि उजव्या डोळ्याची दृष्टी गेली. नंतर सतत बी. पी. चा त्रास, व्हर्टिगोचा त्रास सुरु झाला. आपली दृष्टी गेली याचे त्यांना खूप वाईट वाटे. मी सतत धीर देत असे, पूर्ण दृष्टी तर नाही ना गेली. एक डोळा सुर्यस्त आहे त्यात आनंद माना. देवाच आभार माना. सतत विचार करून त्रास करू नका! मग हळूहळू ते सावरले.'

या साऱ्याबरोबर त्यांचे पोटाचं दुखणं चालू झाले. सतत दवाखाना पुन्हा सुरु झाला. अन्न पचन होत नव्हते. अन्नावरची वासना हळू-हळू कमी झाली. त्यात साऱ्या जगाला 'कोरोना' नावाच्या शत्रूने गाढले. कुठे जाणे- येणे बंद झाले. मित्र परिवार भेटेना. सारे खूपच उदास झाले. हळू-हळू आजार वाढत चालला. दवाखान्यात जाण्याची भिती वाटत असे कारण कधी 'कोरोना' गाढेल याचा नेम नाही.

शेवटी हट्टाने मुलाने आणि सुनेने दवाखान्यात नेले. साऱ्या तपासण्या सुरु झाल्या आम्हाला त्यांची सेवा करावी लागते म्हणून त्यांना वाईट वाटत होते. आणि त्यांचा त्रास पाहून आम्हाला शेवटी डॉक्टरांनी आजाराचे खरे कारण सांगितले. 'पोटाचा कॅन्सर' आमची पायाखालची जमीन सरकली.

त्यांच्यापासून आजार खूप दिवस लपवला जीवनाची थोडी उमेद होती तीही मावळली. त्यांनाही, शेवटी कळले. ते खूपच निराश झाले. जाण्याअगोदर माझ्या पायाला स्पर्श करून म्हणाले, 'लता, तू माझी खूप सेवा केलीस खूप तुला धन्यवाद! जॉयला पणखूप धन्यवाद, त्यानेही खूप काळजी घेतली.'

त्या प्रसंगाची आठवण आली तरी अजूनही माझे डोळे भरून येतात. एक पतीने आपल्या पत्नीचा सन्मान केला. त्या कठीण प्रसंगातही त्यांनी आमची अस्वस्थता पाहिली. देवाला सतत प्रार्थनेत विनंती करीत होतो "देवा माझ्या पतीचे हाल करू नकोस." मला त्यांच्या जाण्याचे भय दिसले. मन दुःखाने विदीर्ण झाले.

शेवटी त्यांना ब्रेन हॅमरेज झाला ४/५ दिवस कोमामध्ये होते. १२ ऑगस्ट २०२१ ला प्रभूकडे शांतपणे गेले. आमच्या जीवनात खूप मोठी पोकळी निर्माण झाली. खूप खूप दुःख झाले .

ते नेहमी म्हणत, “माझ्या एवढा सहनशील कोणी नसेल.” खरंच वयाच्या दुसऱ्या वर्षापासून सत्तर वर्षापर्यंत सतत आजाराशी सामना करत ते जगले. सर्व संकटांना धीराने तोंड दिले.

पतीच्या आजारपणात सर्व आप्तांनी खूप मदत केली. प्रेम केले त्याबद्दल सर्वांचे मनःपूर्वक आभार ! माझे पती अनंतात सुखात असतील व ते आमच्या भेटीला पुन्हा येतील असा विश्वास माझे पती स्वतःची खूप काळजी घेत तरीही आयुष्यात तीन वेळा पडले. आयुष्याच्या सुरुवातील पडल्याने फुफ्फुसे निकामी झाली. दुसऱ्यांदा पडले पर दृष्टी गेली आणि विसर पडणे तर जीव घेणेच ठरले. नियतीची काय योजना कुणास ठाउक.

पती बदल दोन शब्द लिहिण्याचे कारण म्हणजे जीवनात प्रत्येकाच्या आयुष्यात सुख थोडे आणि दुःख अधिक आहे. पण एकमेकांना दोष न देता, एकमेकांना सांभाळून घेतले पाहिजे. आलेल्या संकटांना धीराने तोंड दिले पाहिजे. आपला आदर्श मुलांपुढे ठेवला पाहिजे. कितीही संपत्ती असली तरी ती इथेच ठेवायची आहे. दुसऱ्यांना जेवढी आपुलकी दाखवता येईल तेवढी दाखवा.

डॉ. अब्दुल कलामजी म्हणतात, “जीवन म्हणजे संघर्ष ” । किती खरे आहे. जीवनातील संघर्षाला धैर्याने तोंड दिले पाहिजे. रडत बसल्याने दुःख तर कमी होत नाहीतच पण निराशाच पदरी येते. देवाकडे साऱ्यांना जायचेच आहे पण त्याने बोलवल्यावरच ! माझ्या पतीच्या सहनशीलतेला शतशः प्रणाम !

आपली विश्वासू,

लता रमेश खरात

Vianney Sunday at SJB Borivli

The much-awaited event in the calendar of the parish - Vianney Sunday - was celebrated by the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) of St John Bosco Church, Borivli, on 7 August 2022.

The celebration began with the Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. animated by the catechism students of Class 10. The main celebrant was the parish priest, Father Solomon Rapol. In his homily, he spoke of the life and works of St Jean Marie Vianney, and instructed the faithful to live devout lives that would be imitated by their children to join priesthood and religious life.



The priests were felicitated by the PPC members and the Sunday School children. The confirmation students presented a video, thanking priests for their ministry and sacrifice.

The celebration continued in the AV Hall with refreshments. The priests made a grand entry to some peppy music. A welcome speech by a PPC member was



followed by a skit that left the audience rolling with laughter. The priests and the PPC members actively participated in all the games that were organized. Spot prizes kept the crowd entertained.

Father Renold Lemos, on behalf of the priests, thanked the PPC for organizing this special day for them. Fr Lemos mentioned that the life of a priest is a challenging one, and asked all to pray for them to sustain them in their priestly ministry.

Ms Melrina Mascarenhas

DBYM Borivli celebrates 207th Birth Anniversary of Don Bosco

On 16 August 2022, the youth came together to commemorate the 207th anniversary of the birth of St John Bosco, at Don Bosco Church, Borivli. A total of 32 youngsters were present for the event. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist at which the youth came together and prayed as one family. A short programme organized for the youth followed thereafter. Father Solomon Rapol, the Rector and Parish Priest, welcomed the youth and gave an insightful talk on the qualities of Don Bosco and urged the young people to follow the same in their lives. Father Renold Lemos, the Youth Director, motivated the youth to consider Don Bosco Youth Movement (DBYM) as a platform to grow,



learn, build and develop their skills. He also invited them to make good use of the space provided to them in the campus for recreation.

The celebration continued with some common party games, songs, and dance. The youth then had a symbolic cake cutting with everyone singing 'Happy Birthday' to dearest Don Bosco. This was followed by a short talk by the president of the DBYM, Mr. Durran D'Mello, who briefed the group about the forthcoming events and encouraged them to be proactive and take full participation in the activities organized for them. The birthday celebration ended with a sumptuous dinner and sloganeering in the name of Don Bosco. The evening was truly a memorable one as the youth enjoyed themselves and once again went home with a heart full of memories.

Ms. Drushti Bhosle

A Weekend for Sports Enthusiasts at DB Borivli

On 17 and 18 September 2022, the Don Bosco Youth Movement (DBYM) of St John Bosco Church, Borivli, organized an inter Zonal Throwball and Football Premier League. This event is organized for the parishioners as an annual event. This year the parishioners looked forward to the tournament with greater anticipation and excitement since it was being organised after a span of two years, because of covid-19 and the resulting lockdown.

Both the tournaments were inaugurated separately with an opening ceremony, consisting of a sportsperson's prayer and oath and Father Solomon Rapol- Parish Priest declaring the tournament open. The five-a-side football tournament was

essentially a two-pool league, followed by an IPL-style four team playoff that consisted of a couple of qualifiers and an eliminator before the finals. The team representing the Gorai-1 Zone emerged as the Football tournament winners with its captain - Dinesh Pawar – being awarded player of the tournament. He remarked, “The structure of the tournament was quite unique as compared to the previous years, and felt more inclusive and participatory in nature since it was compulsory to include at least one married person in the playing five.” The women exclusive throwball tournament had six teams competing for the trophy among the zones of the parish. The team representing the zones of Babhai, L. T. Road and Vazira won the tournament with Rhea D’Silva being awarded the player of the tournament.

Many of the parishioners had been looking forward to playing on the recently developed artificial-turf courts





on the campus, and cherished playing under the dazzling lights in the presence of the cheering spectators. Professional referees and the hard work of the youth ensured the tournament came to a conclusion without any hiccups. The closing ceremony consisted of the vote of thanks and the awards ceremony with medals and trophies being presented to the runners-up and the winners. It was a good occasion for the youth to develop their skills in planning, organizing and executing tournaments of this magnitude. Their efforts to enlist sponsors, see to the logistics and be proactive during the tournament despite the brutal monsoon rain on both days was appreciated and commended by the participants and the Priests of the parish.

With a number of events planned for the remainder of the year, the successful execution of the zonal sports tournaments is definitely a good trailer for the energy, enthusiasm and excellence that the youth group will continue to offer the parish community.

Mr. Aaron D'Sa

Trio-Fiesta at DB Borivli

On 13 November 2022, the Don Bosco Youth Movement of St. John Bosco Church, Borivli, organized a Trio-Fiesta, a fiesta that consisted of three sports i.e., badminton, carrom, and table tennis. It is an annual event organized by the youth of the parish for the parishioners to showcase their skills and express their love for each of these sports. The event took place in the school Hall.

The tournament began at 11 a.m. with the opening ceremony and a prayer led by Father Renold Lemos, the



Youth Director- DBYM Borivli. The tournament was open to all age groups. The badminton and carrom tournaments had two categories, the singles and doubles and table tennis had only singles. There were parishioners of varied age groups participating from the various zones of the parish. All participants gave a good fight which led to healthy competition with good sportsman spirit. The referees were chosen from among the youth themselves. “The referees did a commendable job. They were not biased which made the tournament run smoothly,”

commented one of the participants. For badminton in the doubles category the first place was secured by Mr. Jason Dantis and Ms. Anika Sequeira. Mr. Jason Dantis also reigned victory in the single category. The winners for the carrom tournament in the single category was Mr. Mark Fernandes and, in the doubles, the first place was secured by Mr. Martin D’souza along with Mr. Mark Fernandes. For table tennis the winner was Mr. Vijay Lewis. The tournament ended at 5 pm with a sense of satisfaction on the faces of the organizers for having organized the event so efficiently.



The Prize distribution for this tournament was held on 19 November at 9:30am Mass, where the winners were rewarded with a certificate and a medal. The DBYM workforce was involved wholeheartedly in the event till the very end and did a great job to organize this tournament over the weekend for the parishioners.

Mr. Wencelaus Rebello

Role of Women in the Parish

The Blessed Virgin Mary remains the most important human figure in the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church has influenced the status of women in various ways for eg: condemning abortion, divorce and many more. On 11th February, the world celebrates UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science. On this occasion we reflect on women who, by their exemplary achievements, have broken the notions of a patriarchal society.

In keeping with the emphasis of Catholic social teaching, many religious institutes for women have devoted themselves to service of the sick, homeless, disabled, orphaned, aged or mentally ill, as well as refugees, prisoners, others facing misfortune and advocacy of Woman and Child rights.

Many other religious institutes for women have been established down through the centuries, right up to modern times – though in the West, their work in education and medical care is increasingly being taken up by lay people.

Why do we need a women cell in a Parish?

The cell's purpose is needed to give guidance to the women and to aid and assist women from all communities, especially those in distress.

The focus of the group is empowerment of its members and to make one aware of the situation of women in our parish and locality.

To create a data-bank of resources of people and organisations available in the parish or locality.

To work in co-ordination with the Archdiocesan Women's Commission in creating greater gender sensitivity in the parish.

To organise at the parish/SCC/school levels the following activities: Girl Child Day, Campaign for Violence-free families and International Women's Day.

To act as a support group for women in distress (listening with compassion and directing them to avail of professional help) and to provide legal aid.

To clarify the rationale and functions of the Parish Women's Cell and formulate a practical vision mission statement.

“Note that Women's Cells are not against men, but against unjust structures of domination”.

We hope to see a women's cell coming into existence soon at our St. John Bosco Parish, Borivali (W)

Mrs. Vina Prabhu

DONATIONS

1. Anonymous	Rs 10,000/-
2. Gildroy Gomes & Family, Vazira B Zone	Rs 10,000/-
3. Debbie Dmello	Rs 10,000/-
4. Simran Shriyan	Rs 10,000/-
5. Dolphy Dmello	Rs 10,000/-
6. Anonymous	Rs 5,000/-
7. Anonymous	Rs 5,000/-
8. Anonymous	Rs 5,000/-
9. Lata R Kharat, Old MHB Zone	Rs 5,000/-
10. Roque Rocky R. Miranda, Chikuwadi A Zone	Rs 3,333/-
11. Francis & Isabel Martin, Gorai 2 F Zone	Rs 3,000/-
12. Patrick Pereira, Chikuwadi A Zone	Rs 3,000/-
13. Anil Dsouza, Babhai Zone	Rs 3,000/-
14. Victor & Ida Pereira, Gorai 2 Zone	Rs 3,000/-
15. Annie Ambrose, Gorai 1D	Rs 1,000/-
16. Angello Radhika Dsouza, Chikuwadi A Zone	Rs 1,000/-
17. Johnson Saldanha, Chikuwadi A Zone	Rs 1,000/-
18. J. J. Tutorials	Rs 1,000/-

*Fifth Death Anniversary
Remembering with Love...*



We thank God for the gift of
Rosy Machado

Gifted : 27.04.1954 Went Home : 02.02.2018



**A life well-lived
is a precious gift
of hope and strength and grace
from someone who has made our world
a brighter, better place.
It's filled with moments sweet and sad,
with smiles and sometimes tears,
with friendships formed
and good times shared
and laughter through the years.**

**A life well-lived is a legacy
of joy and pride and pleasure,
a loving, lasting memory
our grateful hearts will treasure.**



Husband: Albert

Children: Robert/Viona, Herbert/Princy, Bertillah/Roshan

Grandchildren: Rosbert, Roseanne, Brenden



The
Express
caterers



LAVISH WEDDINGS
OR TINY PARTIES,
WE TAKE CARE OF THEM ALL

*Food by the Kilos anywhere in Bombay
Total food solutions for all occasions*



Office Address: Shop No. 1, Sai Complex, Off Link Rd., Kanderpada, Dahisar West.

Contact: 9820143669 / 9821723302 / Brazil Colaco - 98201 24036

Email: theexpresscaterers@gmail.com | Web: www.expresscaterers.com