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# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY



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# The Wait For That Elusive Inoculation

**F**or a country that is globally renowned for products which have a very short life-span, it is a wonder that Novel Coronavirus which emanated from a lab in Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province of China, has continued to play havoc with the lives of people for so long!

The fascination for Chinese goods has however come to an abrupt end after the virus saga which has made nations the world over show an obvious dislike for anything made in China.

But the harm has already been done!

The ominous spike in infections worldwide has resulted in a global race for a vaccine which has however yielded no commendable results. The sprint to make medical breakthroughs to contain the coronavirus disease has nevertheless had many nations announcing stunning 'discoveries' of a miracle cure.

Although Russia and China have been frontrunners in the contest, experts claim that the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine has a distinct advantage over vaccines from those two countries. The US meanwhile expects the delivery of a vaccine starting in January 2021.

Warning his countrymen to be more realistic, the British Prime Minister is however of the opinion that although there were some hopeful signs that a vaccine could be secured for COVID-19, it cannot not be taken for granted.

India too has been fast-tracking vaccine development process to break the chain of coronavirus transmis-



sion. However, with nothing definite to show for the efforts, the country's search for an effective cure continues.

However, a needless and hasty announcement some months back by the director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research promising a vaccine by August 15 was an assurance that served to be more of a political statement than a public health one.



by Pachu Menon

ICMR which by virtue of being one of the oldest and largest medical research bodies in the world is seen as the most authoritative and authentic voice on the pandemic. Such impractical claims as one made by its head can only damage the reputation of the hallowed organization.

Since when has the quest for a vaccine been defined by time frames!

Of course as the hunt for that elusive inoculation continues, a sense of desperation is bound to set in. But the question of deadlines does not arise as the research organizations are for once faced with challenge that will transcend all limits of time and patience.

As the scientific community engages itself with finding that potent 'shot' which will enable it rid the world of this viral predator which has enjoyed an unconquered run so far, it is essential

that nations refrain from getting into a mood for competitions.

Let us remember that the pandemic has united the world as one in combating the virus. So some good will definitely come of this solidarity.

High rhetoric and tall promises describe the propitiatory ways of our leaders. But when they are not adequately followed up with the desired results there is every reason to feel let down as has happened in this case where the nation's inconclusive search for an effective immunity elixir for coronavirus has been quite disturbing.

The Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan's optimism about the nation launching a COVID-19 vaccine by early 2021 should hence inspire a new hope among Indians who, like the rest of the world, are eagerly waiting for an antidote which could bring them relief from the woes of the coronavirus disease.

Nevertheless, this is one sanguine declaration that brings along with it enough skepticism to disturb millions of countrymen who have come to believe that it will take the virus quite some time for it to totally disappear from the face of the earth.

Discussions on the infrastructure which needs to be in place to roll out



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(Contd.. from p. 2)

the distribution of the vaccine so that it reaches all the people across the country in the shortest possible time could also take a hiatus for some time, at least till such time that an authentic breakthrough is announced by scientists and all clinical trials are carried out to ensure that the vaccine is safe and effective for public health use.

Promises by those in authority could wait till then as otherwise they would fail to have a ring of sincerity about them.

By now the populace is attuned to accepting the harsh realities associated with coronavirus and its lethal effects. Hence it would be absurd to feed the public a regular dose of 'fantasized misinformation' about the success achieved by the government in controlling the viral ailment.

At the same time however, the news about empty beds in COVID hospitals in the state baffling the medical authorities is like a whiff of fresh air in an otherwise rancid milieu that makes one wrinkle one's nose in distaste.

The medical professionals may hold contrasting opinions about this 'phenomenon'; but for a layman, the

'availability of beds' would suggest a wane in the rapidity of infections.

Furthermore, news reports that Salcete has been seeing a sharp decline in the number of COVID cases, and tests, would appear to corroborate this assumption.

While these are glad tidings, the country cannot afford to be complacent at this stage considering that the pandemic has appeared to wax and wane repeatedly in the course of the past few months.

It is said that what goes up must come down! Anything experiencing a large rise or surge will inevitably see a fall or return to normal. It is a universal truth!

Hence thoughts harboured by many about the coronavirus too making an unceremonious exit and leaving only horrible memories of the devastation caused in its wake are well within the realms of possibility.

But it is quite sardonic that despite the rapid advances made in science and technology, the world could yet be held to ransom by a tiny microscopic villain!

-THE END-

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## Remembering our departed

—Jubel D'Cruz,  
Dombivili, Mumbai

All Souls' Day, which is celebrated by the Catholic Church on November 2 every year, is a Christian festival that honours all Christian souls who have died.

Many people visit the cemetery and decorate the graves of their loved ones. Special Masses are celebrated in cemeteries and in churches on that day.

Catholics on this day, remember and pray for the souls of people who have died and who are in Purgatory – the place in which those who have died atone for their sins before being granted the vision of God in heaven.

According to Catholic belief, the soul of a person who dies can go to any one of these places. The first is heaven, where a person who dies in a state of perfect grace and communion with God goes. The second is hell, where those who die in a state of mortal sin are naturally condemned by their choice. The intermediate option is purgatory, which is thought to be where most people, free of mortal sin, but still in a state of lesser (venial) sin, must go. Purgatory is necessary so that souls can be cleansed and perfected before they enter into heaven.

There is a scriptural basis for this belief. The primary reference is in 2 Maccabees, 12:26 and 12:32. "Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. Thus made atonement for the dead that they might be free from sin"

Through the power of prayer, the people on earth can help these souls gain heavenly vision they seek. At each one's home, a special rosary is recited to remember and pray for the souls of their family members, friends, etc.

## Jai East Indian

Please watch on You Tube Jai East Indian Channel the Result of First The World's Best East Indian Singer Champion on Saturday 24th October 2020 from 7.00 pm onwards

The Competition was organized online on the above mentioned Channel for the First Time in the History of East Indians of Mumbai, Salsette, Vasai, Virar, Thane & North Konkan Region by The Maharashtra East Indian Christian Federation (MEICF)

In all there were 25 Singers who took part in the Competition. 5 were from abroad, 1 each from Italy, Argentina and Dubai and 2 from USA

About 6 Priests had taken part in it.

— **Herbert D.Barretto**  
**President, Maharashtra East Indian Christian Federation (MEICF)**

## Control inflation in onion costs

The onion -- ubiquitous in Indian cooking -- is widely seen as the poor man's vegetable. It is the staple food of the common man and has seen a steep rise in the country in the last few weeks. This is because of hoarding and sale in black. The price-rise has resulted in kitchen grievances for majority of the households, as the price is too high for most of the middle-class families to afford. Onions are needed daily for cooking. It is also needed for making salads and 'kanda bhajis'. Without onions, we are unable to cook our daily meals.

The government must control

inflation and must do something to bring down the onion price so as to provide relief to the common man.

The price of onions to Rs 100 a kilo is bringing tears to our eyes much before we cut them.

The onion is a staple vegetable for the poor, indispensable to many Indian cuisines and recipes, from spicy curries to tangy relishes.

—**Jubel D'Cruz,**  
**Dombivili, Mumbai**

## Merits and demerits of plasma therapy

The Goa govt has done well in continuing the treatment of plasma therapy and 'Remdesivir' drug for Covid-19 patients even after the Indian Council of Medical Research announced the removal of plasma therapy from the national guidelines for Covid -19 treatment and the findings of the World Health Organisation (WHO) that 'Remdesivir' has little or no effect on Covid -19 Patients. There appears to be no reason whatsoever to discontinue the above therapies when patients have recovered remarkably well from the deadly Covid virus after these therapies. Secondly, the WHO has proved to be of little use in containing the worldwide spread and deaths due to Covid. It was also late in declaring the pandemic----- a move which could have saved millions of lives. Politicising the issue by blaming China for the origin of the virus and the late announcement of its spread and deaths will also not absolve the WHO of its responsibilities. It is also a sad reflection of the limitations of medical science and the futility of our tall claims of the advances of science in combating viruses of the Covid -19 type. Probably, the need of the hour is the God-given wisdom of Solomon to discern which medical treatment and therapy is best suited for a way out of the pandemic impasse.

—**A. F. Nazareth**  
**Alto Porvorim, Goa**  
(Contd.. on p.7)

# A Second Republic in the Making in India?

by Don Aguiar.

**T**he second successive electoral victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2019 has inaugurated a new epoch in our political history, where the old constitutional values of pluralism, dialogue, institutional autonomy, and harmonious Centre-state relations are sought to be replaced by Hindu majoritarianism, coercive forms of governance, the submission of institutions to the will of the ruling party, and the subordination of states to the Centre. Indian democracy is currently facing 'its worst crisis'

The emphatic triumph of the BJP in the general elections of 2014 and 2019 owes itself to ideology, organisation, and money, and to the projection of a particular individual as the person most capable of being prime minister.

A Modi cult has been carefully built up with the help of communication, media amplification, spin doctoring, and social media management.

A ragtag coalition of all non-BJP parties cannot be an alternative to Modi; an electoral alliance cannot substitute for a coherent vision, a credible leadership, and a clear road map is the need.

The political activist thus belatedly acknowledges what the political scientist does not or cannot – namely, that ideology and individuals are important, even vital, in shaping the contours of democratic politics in India.

The fact is that in the construction of the first Republic, the charisma and character of Gandhi and Nehru, their sway over and appeal to hundreds of millions of Indians, played a crucial role, as did the mobilising work of the organisations they embodied and

led, and the ideology of social inclusion and religious tolerance they advocated.

A second Republic based on exclusion and majoritarianism can indeed be successfully established in India will depend in good part on the charisma of the individuals who seek to lead it, and on how enduring is the appeal of their ideological beliefs beyond the traditional core constituencies which have historically sustained the RSS and the BJP.

Can Modi's charisma be transferred to Adityanath as effectively as Gandhi's was to Nehru? Can majoritarian pride forever satiate voters deprived of decent education and dignified employment? On the answers to such questions may depend how enduring the second Republic will be, how long-lasting its damage to the social and moral fabric of the country.

India may never formally be declared a Hindu Rashtra. It would be unnecessary, for the second republic is likely to be a non-theocratic majoritarian state with a de facto hierarchy of religious communities. ... We are unlikely — or so I hope despite the Delhi riots of February 2020 — to witness large scale anti-minority pogroms, in part because the regime would like to avoid the international outcry that is bound to follow such violence.

Since the need of the day in our second republic would be to reduce the minorities, mainly Muslims and Christians, to the status of second-rung citizens, quotidian put-downs and symbolic violence would suffice. Dalit's and Adivasis may not face the same kind of onslaught, because the ruling regime in the second republic would be cognizant of the political benefits of accommodating them, at least symbolically. To grind their noses in the

dust would in any case seem unnecessary, given a de facto hegemony of upper-caste Hindus.

In our New India the politics of social justice would effectively have taken a back seat, with any expression of Dalit or Adivasi upsurge being nipped in the bud or tamed. While the imposition of Hindi on non-Hindi states would be deemed an unnecessary upsetting of the apple cart, cultural homogenisation in all other respects would be the state's agenda. Our second republic may not be quite the Hindu Rashtra of Savarkar's dreams, but as close to its 21st-century version as required and feasible. This is the direction we see Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, and the RSS wish to take.

How long will this second Republic last? The electoral arena may not be central to the historic mission of reclaiming the republic. We are unlikely to witness a repeat of 1977 when an authoritarian ruler who quietly stepped down after an electoral defeat. Mass mobilisation and popular resistance outside the electoral arena are going to be prerequisites for any effective reversal of the hegemonic power.

Counter-hegemonic politics need a new political instrument. Clearly none of the established political parties are fit for this purpose. But the need is not merely to create a new party or a new alliance. What is needed is a new kind of political formation that subsumes a party, which is a party but not just a party. The need for and importance of popular movements, always non-violent, taking place outside the formal electoral or party political process is required.

Most Citizens were moved and inspired by the protest across the coun-



(Contd.. from p. 6)

try against the Citizenship Amendment Act. However as Howard Zinn says - Civil disobedience is not our problem, our problem is civil obedience.

Our problem is that all people over the world have obeyed the dictates of leaders. Millions have been killed because of this obedience. Our problem is that people are obedient all over the world in the face of poverty, starvation, stupidity, war and cruelty. Our problem is that people are obediently filling our jails full of petty thieves while the grand thieves are running the country. That's our problem.

In the end, this regime will have to be defeated at the ballot box. And here, the opacity of electoral funding places enormous barriers to the successful emergence of brand-new parties, revitalised and repurposed may yet have a role to play in taming the Modi regime. Finally, the sheer economic incompetence of the Modi government might also contribute to its undoing.

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## Scams - an intrinsic part of our system

After all the brouhaha over the 2G Spectrum scam, fodder scam & a host of other so-called scams in the past, one would have thought the period of scams was over after the installation of a New government 2014 General Elections. A lot was expected from the new system. But it seems like scams are now an intrinsic part of our system.

Scams continue to happen in our country - especially the Bank scams, where life's savings of the public are at stake. Businessmen have fled the country with funds from the bank which again basically, is public money. Now, the latest scam to make the headlines is the TRP SCAM - Hah! Yet another feather in our cap?

Television is a very powerful means of spreading information to the public, sensitising them on various issues, shaping public opinion; the scope is wide. The public on their part, should be free to form their own opinion of the various TV channels for the content they have to offer. Now it seems to have come to a stage where TV channels are offering money to get higher TRP Ratings. This is a real shame. They should understand they cannot buy public opinion. So, where are we heading? Can we only dream of a nation without scams?

It is said, **'you can fool some of the people some of the time, you cannot fool all the people all the time'**. This applies to all fields of life.

*—Melville X. D'Souza  
Orlem, Malad West*

(Contd.. from p. 5)

## Reskilling Revolution

The world has seen several changes and transitions. However, none can compare with the drastic transformations COVID-19 pandemic had wrought since India went into lockdown at end of March 2020; as I write on 26 October 2020.

The "Reskilling Revolution" launched by the World Economic Forum aims to ready skilled workers for the future. This initiative also targets to 'skill up' personnel for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in 2030. Is India duly equipped to deal with these?

According to the International Labor Organization, India is going to have a 29 million skill deficit by 2030. And according to the India Skill Report 2020, India's employability percentage stands at only 46% compared to South Korea's 96%. Also, the median age of India's millennials at 2020 is projected to be 29 years. Thus, the India Skill report has put forward four suggestions for the government, industry and academia, for improving India's 'skill development' scenario!

\*Updating the curriculum in collaboration with industry experts and the regimes! \*Improving the education system by enhancing the infrastructural facilities such as, laboratories, research centers, and faculties for improving hands-on learning! \*Keeping students updated on industry trends through frequent industrial visits, internships and guest lectures! \*Inculcating in them the attitude of continuous learning and unlearning, by adapting to the changing work environments!

So, India needs to set up "Skill Universities" at a rapid pace, in order for it to become a global superpower! But as Scripture advises: Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added on (Matthew 6:33).

*—Dr. Trevor Colaso,  
Memphis, TN, USA*

# Analysis of World Population

## Comparing two Epochs!

The current population of Earth is around 7.8 Billion.

For most people, it is a large figure, that is all.

However, someone has condensed the 7.8 billion in the world into 100 persons, and then into various percentage statistics.

The resulting analysis is relatively much easier to comprehend.

Out of 100:

11 are in Europe  
5 are in North America  
9 are in South America  
15 are in Africa  
60 are in Asia

49 live in the countryside  
51 live in cities

12 speak Chinese  
5 speak Spanish  
5 speak English  
3 speak Arabic  
3 speak Hindi  
3 speak Bengali  
3 speak Portuguese  
2 speak Russian  
2 speak Japanese  
62 speak their own language.

77 have their own houses  
23 have no place to live.

21 are over-nourished  
63 can eat full  
15 are under-nourished  
1 ate the last meal, but did not make it to the next meal.

The daily cost of living for 48 is less than US\$2.

87 have clean drinking water  
13 either lack clean drinking water or have access to a water source that is polluted.

75 have mobile phones  
25 do not.

30 have internet access  
70 do not have conditions to go online

7 received university education  
93 did not attend college.

83 can read  
17 are illiterate.

33 are Christians  
22 are Muslims  
14 are Hindus  
7 are Buddhists  
12 are other religions  
12 have no religious beliefs.

26 live less than 14 years  
66 died between 15 - 64 years of age  
8 are over 65 years old.

If you have your own home,  
Eat full meals & drink clean water,  
Have a mobile phone,  
Can surf the internet, and  
have gone to college,  
You are in the miniscule privileged lot.  
(in the less than 7% category)

Amongst 100 persons in the world,  
only 8 can live or exceed the age of 65.

you are over 65 years old.  
Be content & grateful. Cherish life,  
grasp the moment.

You did not leave this world before  
the age of 64 years like the 92  
persons who have gone before you.  
You are already the blessed amongst  
mankind.

Take good care of your own health  
because nobody cares more than you  
yourself!

Cherish every remaining moment.

Have we ever compared two epochs in which we have lived and grown up? A smart child asked daddy: "Dad how did you live without air-planes, internet, computers, TVs, ACs, cars and mobile phones?"

Dad replied, "Not like how your generation lives today: without prayers and Mass; without compassion or mercy; with no honoring or respecting elders; lacking character or shame; starved of modesty or chastity; with no time planning or good reading; and missing out on sport and healthy pastimes!"

"So, we people born before you are truly blessed! Our lives are living proofs: \*After school we played till dusk and never watched TV! \*Nothing happened to our feet in spite of roaming bare foot in the park! \*Our dad and mom never gave us junk food to keep us healthy! \*Though they were not rich, they gave us love, and spent quality time with us! \*We visited our friends without being invited, and enjoyed their food and company! \* We valued our black and white photos, for in them you will find colorful memories! \*Home is the most romantic place on earth where love grows and never dies!

"So, remember child! Learn from us, and treasure us; before we disappear from your life! Here is some valuable advice: have a positive outlook on life! Never keep bad company! Save everything for love only! "Instead forgive, thinking on things that are pure, lovely and of good report // Then you will enjoy the peace that Jesus Christ gave us" (Philippians 4:8 // cf. John 16:33).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,  
Memphis, TN. USA.

# Grieve for Me, no More!

*This is neither my story nor my narration. It has been gathered from experiences of others, based on some true facts that will tug at your heartstrings.*

**A**licia was my batch mate in school and college. As a student she excelled in everything. Capable, talented, she was an achiever, appreciated by one and all. Later on in life she settled well and the guy who married her was fortunate in having such a dynamic, capable person as his life partner and the mother of his kids. Her family and her home became the center of her universe. Every detail of their very existence was expertly taken care of, singlehandedly by this wonder woman. In the absence of her man who held a travelling job, she gradually took over the reins of running her household in her efficient hands! Life smiled at this beautiful setting of a happy family!



by Vera Alvares

But fate struck an untimely blow and just prior to her fiftieth birthday, Alicia fell seriously ill and before friends and family could gather their wits around them, she walked out of their world and into the next one. As expected the family was devastated!

The funeral was a memorable affair attended by all her friends, family and acquaintances, who had ever crossed her path. Touching tributes were paid to her memory and they painted a picture of a grieving family, left rudderless. The grief-stricken children, husband and his old parents were so heart-broken that every person present there was deeply touched and wondered how this family could survive without her.

But worldly appearances are some-

times misleading. Surveying the tragic scene at the funeral I recalled how Alicia had existed in the shadow of her family as a dutiful wife, mother and daughter-in-law without a life of her own! Did she take pride in her own achievements and let the family take advantage of her?

Few months later I happened to visit the city and the first thought which came to my mind was to visit my dear departed friend Alicia's family. The picture of her helpless husband and weeping children flashed across my mind to strengthen my resolve. I picked up some flowers and gifts and put on a brave face as I rang the doorbell of their flat. In doing this, my sole intention was to console and support the family, which I felt needed all the help it could get.

As Alicia's close friend, I had visited her a number of times and on every visit had ruefully watched her engrossed in caring for her family. At the same time I was impressed by her efficiency, for her little world ran on well-oiled wheels, with clockwork precision! She employed no house-help, preferring to do everything herself. When invited to an outing with us she would always decline saying, "I am needed at home. My husband is lost without me, my family needs me. They take me for granted but I don't mind because they are my family after all...". In that forced smile on her lips I often detected a note of disappointment!

Standing at her door, I wondered how the poor husband was managing without her by his side! I pushed these thoughts out of my mind and waited .....The door was opened by a stranger and in her native tongue she informed me that she had been serv-

ing as a house-help for the past three months. Well, well.....

The husband was out playing tennis at the club with his friends as he had taken a new job with a lot of free time on his hands. I could hear laughter and shrieks from the children watching television in the next room. The aged parents, I was told, now had full-time care-givers and the house-help managed the sundry chores like, marketing, cooking, cleaning etc .

My mind went back to my earlier visits. I remembered my friend's warm hug and a happy smile as she had always welcomed me, with her sweaty brow, gloved hands, disheveled hair... Tears welled up in my eyes. She looked at me from her huge portrait on the mantelpiece as if to say, do not grieve for me.....!

But I mourned, not for her sudden departure but for a wasted life of selfless service. My tears were for her missed school reunion on account of her mother-in-law's minor ailment. My tears were for the missed family wedding because she had to supervise the minor repairs of her house. I silently wept at her false presumption that she was indispensable!

Does this move you to tears? So then take time to love and appreciate every person you have in your life, NOW!

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Prop. B. D'Souza

# Pope Francis Comment of Civil Unions is a Puzzle

by Don Aguiar.

Questions swirled Thursday about the origins of Pope Francis' comments endorsing same-sex civil unions, with all evidence suggesting he made them in a 2019 interview that was never broadcast in its entirety.

The Vatican refused to comment on whether it cut the remarks from its broadcast or if the Mexican broadcaster that conducted the interview did. And it didn't respond to questions about why it allowed the comments to be aired now in the documentary "Francesco," which premiered Wednesday.

**In the movie, which was shown at the Rome Film Festival, Pope Francis said "gay people have the right to be in a family since they are "children of God."**

**"You can't kick someone out of a family, nor make their life miserable for this," the pope said. "What we have to have is a civil union law; that way they are legally covered."**

Those comments caused a firestorm, thrilling progressives and alarming conservatives, given official Vatican teaching prohibits any such endorsement of homosexual unions.

**While serving as archbishop of Buenos Aires, Pope Francis had endorsed civil unions for gay couples as an alternative to same-sex marriages. However, he had never come out publicly in favour of legal protections for civil unions as pope, and no pontiff before him had, either.**

It's pretty funny to watch the hullabaloo over Pope Francis saying that gay folks are, like, you know, regular people who should be allowed to live

together in recognized relationships.

Of course, almost as soon as news of the pope's perfectly reasonable if belated comments in a documentary called "Francesco" became public, a few of the Roman Catholic laity — weighed in with a homophobic screed.

Quoting extensively from their sanctimonious statement about how gay people getting hitched is terrible and, following their logic, will result in them burning in eternal damnation. Their claim that such relationships are "objectively immoral."

Despite having the benefit of a substantial education, they don't appreciate the difference between the terms objective and subjective. Having a problem with gay people loving each other and having sexual relationships is subjectively immoral only to an increasingly shrinking group of troglodytes. What is objectively immoral is bishops protecting priests who rape children. It is believed by progressives that gay people have the natural right to be married and be as miserable as the rest of us. (Just kidding!)

But, seriously, the Catholic Church's centuries-old obsession with the sexual habits of ordinary people, as opposed to its own abusive priests, is bewildering. Its haemorrhaging of church-going members in countries where people aren't desperately poor is entirely predictable. Let's keep things in perspective. Many priests and nuns do much good work.

Pope Francis's endorsement of same-sex civil unions is likely to be among the most remembered moments of his papacy. **But a day after his landmark comment surfaced in a documentary premiere, there was growing intrigue about when and to whom the pontiff made the statement, and whether the Vatican wanted it made**

public.

Initially, the origin of the pope's comment appeared clear-cut: Filmmaker Evgeny Afineevsky told several news outlets that he had conducted the interview in which the pope advocated for "a civil union law."

But Internet sleuths and journalists then realized the comments instead appeared to come from a 2019 interview with a Mexican broadcaster.

The civil unions comment wasn't part of the Televisa broadcast or a Vatican transcript released at the time. However, the scene shown in the documentary, "Francesco," looks identical to the 2019 footage: same lighting, same chair in the background, same placement of the small microphone on the pope's vestments.

**The debate over the comment's origins doesn't change the significance of what the pope said, but it does introduce questions about the filmmaker's methods.**

It also raises questions about whether the Vatican had initially been uncomfortable with the remarks or asked the Mexican channel to cut them at the time. Pope Francis is known for making news while speaking off the cuff, sometimes leaving his media handlers to do damage control.

This was not the first time that the pope addressed the issue of the union between people of the same sex. However the quote in the documentary, though, is the first clear statement of support from Pope Francis that has become public during his papacy.

The Vatican frequently edits the pope in official transcripts and videos, especially when he speaks on sensitive issues.



## A Dark Festival of Lights

- Dr.Prema Saldanha.

The Vatican transcript shows another comment in the documentary was pulled from the same 2019 session — with heavy editing.

**“Homosexuals have a right to be a part of the family,” Pope Francis is shown saying in the documentary. “They’re children of God and have a right to a family. Nobody should be thrown out, or be made miserable because of it.”**

**In the transcript, those lines are not spoken consecutively, and it is clear the pope was referring to children, not couples, when saying, “They’re children of God and have a right to a family.”**

Pope Francis’s endorsement made major waves for the world’s Catholics, including LGBTQ members who have felt shunned by the faith’s official teachings.

Mostly lost in the shuffle of the pope’s words about recognizing the legitimacy and humanity of gay couples are his words about something just as important:

Human Rights Watch said the pontiff’s stance had the potential to bolster the LGBTQ legal fight, especially in predominantly Catholic countries, where “same-sex couples lack basic recognition. The pope’s comment caused blowback from hardliners.

One Cardinal frequently critical of Pope Francis, Raymond Burke, on Thursday said that the pope’s remarks were contrary to the “Sacred Scripture” and would “generate great bewilderment and cause confusion” among the faithful.

My blood they said  
Is all but fiery red  
My parents listened with dread  
When my lab reports they read

The word I’m scared to utter  
Wish it could melt like butter  
The seal ‘Blood Cancer’  
Making one a painful dancer

The spark is all gone  
Why was I the one?  
Slowly and steadily it started to unfold  
With wretchedness and misery untold

The year was bad  
The days long and hard  
The experts’ declared  
You will be long confined to bed

The fall brings the festival of lights  
With its sounds and sights  
Giving every year the thrill  
With the little ones shouts so shrill

Dad and mom they tried so hard  
Adding lustre to a gloomy life...but too bad...  
As crackers burst loud and bright  
Do I see even a little light?

If only my face could wear a smile  
My parents would run a mile  
To get that one sparkler pot  
Or that rocket hot

The drugs they gave  
For my life to save  
The disease they attempted to kill  
The effects are within me still

In the warm glow  
If only my blood could flow  
And bring a little cheer  
To my parents dear

Darkness lit up with hope  
They’re sure I will cope  
But who can surely tell  
If next year I will be well...



*Dr.Prema Saldanha*

The Author : Dr Prema Saldanha is an admired doctor in her field. She is presently Professor & Head of the Department of Pathology, at Yenepoya Medical College in Mangaluru. As a medic she is sensitive and caring towards human suffering - thus poems like this one are born. Her special attention is to research guidance of students and scholars. Prof Dr Prema Saldanha is the elder daughter of renowned medic of Fr.Muller’s College Hospital Mangalore and a pioneer homeopath Dr.V T D’Souza. Her husband Dr. Julian Saldanha is Resident Medical Officer (RMO) at Wenlock and both are 'Corona Warriors.'

**The American Catholic Church has a big task in guiding her faithful so that America or rather the world gets the right President on 3rd November!**

## **TRUMP vs BIDEN**

**T**he 2020 United States presidential election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2020. It will be the 59th quadrennial presidential election. Voters will select presidential electors who in turn will vote on December 14, 2020, to either elect a new president and vice president or re-elect the incumbents Donald Trump and Mike Pence respectively. Democratic challenger Joe Biden is currently leading Donald Trump in the national polls. Central issues of the election include the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has left over 2,29,284 Americans dead; protests in reaction to the killing of George Floyd and other African Americans; the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett, and the future of the Affordable Care Act, with Biden arguing for protecting and expanding the scope of the legislation, and Trump pushing for repealing or narrowing many of its provisions.



Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities, applauded the President "A praiseworthy order from the President!!" Will this action influence the Catholic vote? Trump is supporting Catholic views on some moral issues, like abortion. Will this attitude forgive Mr. Trump all the lies he has told? "President Trump is ignoring Catholic teachings on care for the Earth, feeding the hungry, welcoming the immigrant," Sister Simone Campbell, a social-justice activist fired back at the Democratic convention.



**Fr. Michael G. Vasai**

### **WHITHER CATHOLIC VOTE?**

Donald Trump is the President in power. His every action can win votes for him. In line with pro-life policy he released an executive order to ensure that federally-funded hospitals are aware of and compliant with, current legal protections intended to ensure that babies born prematurely or with disabilities receive a medical assessment and appropriate care. The executive order also calls for more funding for research to improve outcomes for babies born prematurely or with disabilities. Immediately *Archbishop*

Will the Church in the US be guided by 'morals' alone and undermine social justice? In one campaign ad, Biden is shown talking about Pope Francis, who has urged Catholics not to focus so vociferously on the church's opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage at the expense of social justice. Abortion issue is to be examined in the light of Pope Francis endorsing the same-sex civil unions for the first time as pope while being interviewed for the feature-length documentary 'Francesco', which premiered last week at the Rome Film Festival.

### **JOSEPH ROBINETTE BIDEN JR.**

Against the incumbent President Mr. Trump, Mr. Biden needs a little introduction. Mr. Joseph Biden is a Catholic, the Democratic presidential nominee. He has served as the 47th vice president of the United States from 2009 to 2017 alongside Barack Obama. He served as a United States Senator for Delaware from 1973 to 2009. Biden announced U.S. Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate As Vice President, in the 2020 presidential election. Kamala Harris is of Indian origin and the first Black woman and the first Asian-American woman to be selected as the vice presidential nominee of a major political party in the US. If elected, Biden would become the oldest person to serve as president at 78 years old and the first candidate to defeat an incumbent president in 28 years since Republican George H. W. Bush's defeat by Democrat Bill Clinton in 1992.

A note on his personal life will help voters to understand him as a good Catholic. In December 1972, Biden's wife Neilia and their one-year-old daughter Naomi were killed in an automobile accident. Biden's sons Beau and Hunter respectively suffered a broken leg and a minor skull fracture. Biden considered resigning from politics to care for them, but Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield persuaded him not to. At 30, he was the sixth-youngest senator in U.S. history. As a mark of his simple lifestyle Biden commuted by train between his Delaware home and Washington, D.C. to accompany his sons every day; 90 minutes journey each way! He maintained this habit throughout his 36 years while in the Senate. But the accident had filled him with anger



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and religious doubt. He wrote later that he "felt God had played a horrible trick" on him, and he had trouble focusing on work. Biden credits his second wife, Jill Tracy Jacobs, with the renewal of his interest in politics and life. They are both practicing Roman Catholics. Their daughter Ashley Blazer is a social worker. Beau Biden became an Army Judge Advocate in Iraq and later Delaware Attorney General; he died of brain cancer in 2015. Hunter Biden is a Washington attorney.

### MR. TRUMP HAS OFTEN LIED!

We Indians cannot forget his association with our Feku Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the mega event Namaste Trump on 24-25 Feb. 2020 which kept India's International airports open to foreign Covid-19 patients till March! Modiji even had an election campaign in event called *Haudy Modi* at Houston on 22 September 2019, where Modi gave a slogan: "Abki Baar Trump Sarkar!" Shameless behaviour on the part of both heads of democratic countries! These days Mr. Trump's efforts to tarnish Mr. Biden's personal image and make him unacceptable, have not been successful. Mr Trump said that Kamala Harris whose parents were immigrants "doesn't qualify" to serve as US vice-president. The fringe theory has been dismissed by constitutional experts. His comments are considered as "abhorrent" and "pathetic". Mr Trump spent years promoting a false "birther" theory that ex-President Barack Obama was not born in the US. Donald Trump was the national leader of the grotesque, racist birther movement, which sought to fuel racism and tear the nation apart. Is he really against Beijing? The New York Times reports that Trump has maintained a Chinese bank account. This is important because Trump has repeatedly attacked Biden's policies towards China and has also criticized Hunter Biden's business dealings

in that country. The BBC has a list of trending stories related to the US elections. One of the BBC stories include a short explainer on why Tiffany Trump began trending yesterday following her appearance at an LGBTQ event. "I know what my father believes in. Prior to politics he (President Trump), supported gays, lesbians, the LGBQI... IA+"

Trump's taxes show chronic losses and years of income tax avoidance. The New York Times has obtained tax-return data extending over more than two decades for Trump (*New York Times September 28, 2020 10:17:20 am*). Trump paid no federal income taxes for 11 of the 18 years examined—largely because he reported losing much more money than he made. Also hanging over him is a decade long audit battle with the Internal Revenue Service over the legitimacy of a \$72.9 million tax refund that he claimed, and received, after declaring huge losses. An adverse ruling could cost him more than \$100 million.

With just a few days left for the election, according to a recent survey Trump does not hold an edge on any of the most pressing issues at stake in the election. Voters preferred Mr. Biden over issues like economic matters, managing the corona-virus pandemic, choosing Supreme Court justices and maintaining law and order. Americans see Mr. Biden as more capable of uniting the country. Most of all it is clear that crucial constituencies are poised to reject Mr. Trump be-

cause they cannot abide his conduct.

### CATHOLIC CHURCH WHICH WAY?

Trump and Biden Court both are wooing the Catholic vote in their own way. Biden is Catholic by faith but Trump is more for Catholic moral principles like pro-life issues. Joseph Biden's supporters are highlighting his Catholic faith and values. Alisa Anderson, a lifelong Catholic from Livonia, Mich., does not typically give much weight to the religious backgrounds of political candidates, says, "Biden has shown us that his faith has led him through some very dark times and I have admiration for someone who can admit that. Yet there are some staunch Catholics like Father James Altman of La Crosse, Wisconsin who says, "You cannot be Catholic and be a Democrat ... Repent of your support of that party and its platform or face the fires of hell!" Trump has many scuffles with the pope. Pope Francis has called the president's immigration policies "not Christian," Trump has called him "disgraceful" for saying such a thing! For the ultra conservative Catholics, Francis is the embodiment of abhorrent modernist, globalist, even secularist values!

Hence the American Catholic Church has a big task in guiding her faithful so that America or rather the world gets the right type of President on 3rd November!

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# Senior Citizens Steals the Show During Covid-19

**A**s you get older, your risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases. For example, people in their 50s are at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 40s. Similarly, people in their 60s or 70s are, in general, at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 50s. The greatest risk for severe illness from COVID-19 is among those aged 85 or older. There are also other factors that can increase your risk for severe illness, such as having underlying medical conditions. By understanding the factors that put you at an increased risk, you can make decisions about what kind of precautions to take in your daily life.

Simple living and high thinking is the motto of the Senior Citizens. The "Helping Hands" of the seniors spread to every nook and corner of the country. It helps to spread awareness about the needs of Senior Citizens and makes them know of their own rights. This includes how to make use of pension benefits to profitable investments and earning good returns. Such returns earned can be made use for the monthly medical expenses without pinching the pocket. It is time to sit and chat in a nearby park or garden and relax and enjoy life in fresh air. Doing yoga for a few days in a week can also benefit the seniors to carry on with added spirit and vitality.

It is often said that poverty in childhood and loneliness in old age are curses on human beings. Maybe this statement was made during the years when the situation of elders living alone was a rare occurrence. In the olden days the joint family sys-

tem existed in India. This beautiful social institution took care of elders, the orphaned children, destitute and widows. But in today's global village scenario, when the children are more often than not settled elsewhere in the globe, the elders are left alone. It may be due to the children's inability to take them along with them or due to the desire of the elders themselves to stay alone in India. They join senior citizen clubs and make their life meaningful by entering into social activities by playing a game of chess or turn to the Carrom Board by playing a few games for the diversion of their mind and forget about worries.



C.K. Subramaniam

The tag senior citizen is generally given to a person who is between 58 and 65 years of age and has superannuated from active service. This age band fixed for retirement was based on the old system followed decades ago when longevity was lower than 60 years. With the advance in medical sciences and health supporting systems, longevity now goes up to 75. Perhaps, the retirement age needs revision to make use of the services of experienced people for some more time in the interest of national development.

The presence of relatives and old-age homes, however comfortable, cannot provide for emotional needs. Some people overcome the blues by taking recourse to cultural and social activities but others suffer silently. Low income and poor health aggravate the misery. With about 50 per cent of the elderly being financially dependent on others, it is affordable housing, health care, and the psychological and social manifestations of aging that we will struggle to respond

to as a country with no social security and dismal elderly care facilities. What will be the combined impact of this trend on small, nuclear families, along with an improvement in lifestyle and an increase in degenerative diseases and life spans, especially for women? Where are we going to live as we grow old and who is going to take care of us?

While we hope that the Indian family continues to be stronger than in most countries and provides a caring environment for the elderly, it can't be the basis for our ability to support the elderly. India needs to take a serious look at the needs of the elderly in a more pragmatic and holistic manner. For starters it could focus on the three key aspects of health, housing, and dignity. NGOs and social organisations are doing their best to provide a better and satisfactory way of life in metro cities. Old age homes are coming up in Coimbatore, Bengaluru and Chennai for the upkeep and make them rehabilitated with proper food and health care. But how many people can afford such facilities of their own or through the resources of their children. Children live in far off places like America or Australia and thus making the parents weary of their life in isolation and worried about their well being without the personal touch of their children.

There is a need for a network of old age homes, both in the private and public sector. While the private sector has taken the lead in setting up some state-of-the-art facilities, most of these are priced well out of the reach of ordinary citizens. State governments must be mandated to set up



(Contd.. from p. 14)

quality, affordable homes. A growing number of old people live alone while their children work abroad. The Senior Citizens feel insecure and helpless with no one to take care of their daily needs. Loneliness and depression may be unwanted bed fellows of old age people, but along with advancing years come more palpable enemies.

That means the seniors have understood the concepts and techniques of active aging and about healthy living, which is possible only through positive thinking. Such seniors are role models to the younger generation. There lies the real success of life and let others live in a serene atmosphere as seniors and not become a burden to the family as well as to the society.

A care plan summarizes your health conditions, medicines, healthcare providers, emergency contacts, and end-of-life care options (for example, advance directives). Complete your care plan in consultation with your doctor, and if needed, with help from a family member or home nurse aide. A care plan can have benefits beyond the current pandemic. You can update your care plan every year, or any time you have a change in your health or medicines. Care plans can help reduce emergency room visits and hospitalizations and improve overall medical management for people with a chronic health condition, resulting in better quality of life. During the COVID-19 pandemic, having a care plan is an important part of emergency preparedness.



# A peep into bureaucracy

Have you ever been to a government office to get your work done? Here are some things that may happen to you when you go to a government office to get your work done. Be it the passport office, a ration office, an electricity billing office or just getting a license renewed. Government offices are just UGH! Here are some of the stages that you have to go through starting from the time you get out of your house.

**The false hope:** You have this hope that your day is going to be good in the morning. You think that you are going to the government office to get the work done in a hour or two. You may also think that maybe you can get the work done early and visit the mall or the cinema hall and spend the next half of the day chilling. But sadly, the hope gets crumpled soon.

**Wastage of paper:** You walk into the government office and the first thing you notice are huge piles of paper/files everywhere. Piles as high as a six-storeyed building. You wonder why! Didn't India go digital? Shouldn't every task be done online?

**Circle of counters:** You ask for directions to the department you have to report to and you receive a reply, "It's on the third floor, then you take a right and then the first left and then look for the water cooler and hidden behind that is the department that you want." And then, you are thrown out from one counter to another in an attempt to get your work done.

**Unending queues:** When you fi-

nally manage to find where you have to be, you see huge queues everywhere. When you actually get to the counter that man says, "It's the same line." But because it is so long, it feels like there are multiple lines. Now for the task of finding the end of that line, the time you take to find it out, the line already grows to at least three kilometres.

**Multiple forms:** You somehow stood in that line and walked the three kilometres to the end that is the counter. Behind that counter is the man who will bombard you with silly questions and name a number of forms you haven't filled. You stand right at the counter and fill in those forms while the

people in the queue grumble at you for taking their time up. Even after you fill in those forms out and submit them to the official at the counter, he will still find out faults and consume more time. You are finally shoved out of the line and you go to a bench to sit and refill those forms.

**Lunch break:** You fill every detail and somehow make it to the counter again. And just when you reach it, the clerk behind the counter puts up old wooden signboard which mentions 'LUNCH BREAK'.

**Last attempt:** After the lunch, you hurry back to the counter but see that they have stopped accepting the forms for the day and shut the windows. You call up your parents, try to talk to the officials to accept your forms but in vain. Finally you are left with no other option but to return the next day.



by Jubel D'Cruz

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In a Catholic school cafeteria, a nun places a note in front of a pile of apples, "Only take one. God is watching." Further down the line is a pile of cookies. A little boy makes his own note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

A: Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump.

\*\*\*\*\*

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" "That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies. After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

\*\*\*\*\*

Two factory workers are talking. The woman says, "I can make the boss give me the day off." The man replies, "And how would you do that?" The woman says, "Just wait and see." She then hangs upside down from the ceiling. The boss comes in and says, "What are you doing?" The woman replies, "I'm a light bulb." The boss then says, "You've been working so much that you've gone crazy. I think you need to take the day off." The man starts to follow her and the boss says, "Where are you going?" The man says, "I'm going home, too. I can't work in the dark."

\*\*\*\*\*

A doctor and a lawyer are talking at a party. Their conversation is constantly interrupted by people describing their ailments and asking the doctor for free medical advice. After an hour of this, the exasperated doctor asks the lawyer, "What do you do to stop people from asking you for legal advice when you're out of the office?" "I give it to them," replies the lawyer, "and then I send them a bill." The doctor is shocked, but agrees to give it a try. The next day, still feeling slightly guilty, the doctor prepares the bills. When he goes to place them in his mailbox, he finds a bill from the lawyer.

\*\*\*\*\*

A teacher asked her students to use the word "beans" in a sentence. "My father grows beans," said one girl. "My mother cooks beans," said a boy. A third student spoke up, "We are all human beans."

\*\*\*\*\*

Being an astronaut is funny. It's the only job where you get fired before you start work.

\*\*\*\*\*

A thief stuck a pistol in a man's ribs and said, "Give me your money." The gentleman, shocked by the sudden attack, said, "You cannot do this, I'm a congressman!" The thief replied, "In that case, give me MY money!"

\*\*\*\*\*

An airliner was having engine trouble, and the pilot instructed the cabin crew to have the passengers take their seats and get prepared for an emergency landing.

A few minutes later, the pilot asked the flight attendants if everyone was buckled in and ready.

"All set back here, Captain," came the reply, "except one lawyer who is still going around passing out business cards."

\*\*\*\*\*

- In the USA, everything that is not prohibited by law is permitted.
- In Germany, everything that is not permitted by law is prohibited.
- In Russia, everything is prohibited, even if permitted by law.
- In France, everything is permitted, even if prohibited by law.
- In Switzerland, everything that is not prohibited by law is obligatory.

\*\*\*\*\*

A junior partner in a firm was sent to a far-away state to represent a long-term client accused of robbery. After days of trial, the case was won, the

client acquitted and released. Excited about his success, the attorney telegraphed the firm: "Justice prevailed." The senior partner replied in haste: "Appeal immediately."

\*\*\*\*\*

A witness to an automobile accident was testifying. The lawyer asked him, "Did you actually see the accident?" The witness: "Yes, sir."

The lawyer: "How far away were you when the accident happened?"

The witness: "Thirty-one feet, six and one quarter inches."

The lawyer (thinking he'd trap the witness): "Well, sir, will you tell the jury how you knew it was exactly that distance?"

The witness: "Because when the accident happened I took out a tape and measured it. I knew some annoying lawyer would ask me that question."

\*\*\*\*\*

A woman and her little girl were visiting the grave of the little girl's grandmother. On their way through the cemetery back to the car, the little girl asked, "Mommy, do they ever bury two people in the same grave?"

"Of course not, dear." replied the mother, "Why would you think that?"

"The tombstone back there said 'Here lies a lawyer and an honest man.'"

\*\*\*\*\*

Math Teacher: "If I have 5 bottles in one hand and 6 in the other hand, what do I have?"

Student: "A drinking problem."

\*\*\*\*\*

Teacher: "Which book has helped you the most in your life?"

Student: "My father's check book!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Don't break anybody's heart; they only have 1. Break their bones; they have 206.

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: What do you call a pig that does karate?

A: A pork chop.

\*\*\*\*\*

A man got hit in the head with a can of Coke, but he was alright because it was a soft drink.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Wise Crack and Cure!

It takes wisdom and folly to crack a wise crack, especially in these COVID-19 times! Here are 10 examples to enjoy and treat!

\*How does an attorney sleep? Well, first he lies on one side, then he lies on the other side!  
\*Few jokes on unemployed people; but none of them work!  
\*How does one make holy water? Boil the hell out of it!  
\*I have a split personality revealed Tom, being very Frank!  
\*Will glass coffins be a success? Remains to be seen!  
\*Two windmills on a wind farm. One asks, "What's your favorite music?" The other replies, I am a big metal fan!  
\*Heard about the new restaurant called Karma? There is no menu; you get what you desire!  
\*What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind in May? A maybe!  
\*I sued the airlines for losing my costly luggage; yet I lost my case!  
\*When everything is coming your way, remember you are in the wrong lane!

Well, here is the cure or remedy to walk right; especially if you are a God-fearing Christian or even otherwise! It's your choice, so please choose life from these Scripture quotations!

"Can a woman forget her nursing child, or not have compassion on the child of her womb? Even if these may forget, yet I (God) will not forget you" //Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord; the fruit of the womb a reward!

—Dr. Hazel Colaso,  
Memphis, TN, USA.



*How to make Phirni at home.  
Here's the method.*

1. Rinse ¼ cup basmati rice a couple of times in water. Drain and let it dry on its own. Then, grind the rice in a dry grinder or coffee grinder till the consistency resembles rava. Keep aside.
2. Heat 1 litre milk in a saucepan till it begins to boil.
3. Whilst the milk is heating, take one tbsp of warm milk in a small bowl and dissolve 12-15 saffron strands in it.
4. When the milk begins boiling, add the ground rice. Stir.
5. Next add 1 cup sugar and stir again.
6. Cook the rice on a low flame. Keep on stirring in breaks so that lumps are not formed. Also, scrape the sides often and add it to the simmering milk.
7. The milk will thicken as the phirni is getting cooked.
8. When the rice is almost cooked, add the cardamom powder (7-8 green cardamoms crushed and powdered in a mortar-pestle), the saffron dissolved milk and 16-18 blanched sliced almonds.
9. Cook for a further 5-6 minutes or till you get a creamy pudding like consistency.
10. Pour it in serving bowls. Sprinkle some sliced almonds and rose petals on the top.
11. Cover the bowls with lids or with aluminum foils. When they cool down, keep them in the fridge.

P.S.: Phirni is always eaten cold. So you have to wait for sometime to enjoy this delicious sweet dish.



Sweta D'Cruz



# Lockdown Lessons

The question that is uppermost in the minds of most residents of the city is whether there is any lockdown at all in place. Yes, those with school and college going children do know that educational institutions are still out of bounds for physical attendance. The entertainment industry is still under lockdown, at least that part of it that involves screening or performing to a live audience. But that is about it. For the rest, it is life as usual, as it was before March 2020. With one difference, the threat of Covid-19 is forever hanging overhead, rather like the proverbial sword of Damocles.



Jayanthi Subramaniam

operate on a dynamic model and we can function only if everything works. Metropolises like Mumbai were not designed for shutdowns. There are many who depend on a daily wage and they have already been pushed to desperation and more. Sadly, these are also the very same people who are most likely to contract this dreaded disease. Preaching social or physical distancing to them is a cruel joke.

They do not live and work in environments where such a luxury is possible. At the other end of the spectrum, the State too needs its daily wages, by way of taxation revenue. It has its running cost that has to

be met. And for this it needs the city to function.

As of now, all the services and places that experience public congregation have opened up with transport systems, malls, places of worship and open recreational spaces. The first

There are many who feel that nothing much was achieved by the lockdown anyway. There are others who wonder as to why we went into lockdown when numbers were low and why we are opening up now, when the figures for infected cases remain at a steady high. There are however no answers. The lockdown was necessary for the Government and those in the health sector to prepare for a sharp rise in statistics. We are told that this has been achieved. This is not believed by several but at this stage, it is better to go with an element of trust. There is nothing achieved by negative thinking and being suspicious.

Was the hand of the Government, Central and State, forced into opening up? Most certainly by the demands of the economy. As a city we

unlocked Sunday saw people thronging the last named. Sometime back a prominent mall in the city had to close down within hours of opening as it could not manage the influx of people with a skeleton staff support. The people cannot be blamed as they are not knowing about how long they remain cooped up at home. There is a limit to being entertained by the electronic medium.

All of this is understandable. But what is not is lack of discipline among people. It has been shown that the wearing of masks is probably the last expensive and most effective way of keeping virus at bay. And yet, most residents of Mumbai and suburbs do not appear to appreciate this. You only need to see the number of bare faces, others with masks just hanging around necks or dangling for an ear or nestling in the crook of an elbow. Why is this simplest of rules not followed? The excuses are many and the worst of all is the quoting of some unknown study that masks are useless in the face of viruses. Are Mumbai people so undisciplined that even this basic hygiene requirement is beyond them? Sadly, it would appear to be so. And so, if the numbers spike, we have only ourselves to blame.

Covid is a merciless virus that respects none. As of now there is no vaccine for it. But it can be kept at bay by our taking to wearing masks and washing of hands with soap. Let us resolve to do this and wait and see the Covid-19 to end at the earliest. Lockdown lessons made us prudent to act during a pandemic.

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# Why Do Parents Neglect Their Children

**W**e know that Mary and Joseph were the ideal parents. They never neglected taking care of Jesus. They sheltered, protected, went searching when they thought he was lost, and till the end of his life they were always in the shadows keeping watch over his divine ministry and mission.

It is wrong to imagine that Mary was taking away her son's glory as some Christians believe. The moon does not deprive the sun of its light, but helps to radiate its light in a dark world at night. Similarly, the presence of the Virgin Mary does not take away the glory of her Son Jesus, but helps to spread His glory through her.

Parents have a responsibility towards their children. The absence of their personal orientation as parents could deprive children on the benefits they might reap in adulthood. Mary and Joseph are iconic parents. Joseph was a carpenter and shared his skill and experience with the human side of his son. This was absolutely necessary as the means of entry into a world of human mental and physical endeavors. At a precise point in the life of Christ he would better understand and appreciate the labors of humanity.

Jesus' Mother might have told him many stories, the type children love to hear and absorb, stories with morals for a child's development and growth. This could be the reason why Christ, in his ministry created parables. The parables with their human content and drama had redemptive values. Mother Mary must have shared the true communion of human life in her closeness to Jesus as he grew up. She might have told him of man's poverty, hunger, sickness and suf-



fering. And because of his mother's guidance he gauged the significance of woman as the console of humanity.

Parents in most cases neglect their children insofar when it is a matter of having to cope with their own domestic issues, personal problems and keeping up with neighbors. A few orthodox families have sacrosanct problems and over protect their offspring, thus neglecting their duties and responsibility.



BY MELVYN BROWN

The growing child looks to his parents as the first among teachers for his mental, physical and emotional growing. Neglect of a child will stunt his physical development, his brain will not know how to reason or to confront sudden moments of crisis in his life. This could lead to psychological problems. He will eventually develop a low self-esteem of himself. All this could lead to taking drugs and other illicit crimes. Parental neglect of a child leads to malnutrition and having the wrong type of food habits and rude behavior.

What is expected of parent's:

For employed and active couples, a

minimal expression of love, a firm family-oriented rule for the practice of religious rites, night prayers, prayers before and after meals, to say the family Rosary at least twice a week, to be polite, to respect elders and never to tell lies. Now, it that too much, I don't think so.

You can be the child's guide and friend. Win his confidence and trust to turn to you when they face a conflict. Somehow, as a parent show your love.

Volumes have been written on how the neglect of parents can affect a child. So, put into practice these few suggestions. That's all it takes to be a good parent.

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# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

**7097 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 97 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as Sr. Account Recievable in private company. Contact email : dsouzadonald11@gmail.coms

**7041. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 10th Std., working as a Plant Operater. Contact email : ronnydsouza075@gmail.com

**7104. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1975), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 95 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., working as a Office Assistant. Contact email :

agnelo.nazareth1975@gmail.com

**7083. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1985), Ht. 6', Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., PGDLM, PGDSM, working as PPM & Data Engineer in Shipping Company. Contact email :

ryan.intermilan@yahoo.co.in

**7102. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 95 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters, working for MNC. Contact email : am.pereira@rediffmail.com

**7049. CANADA :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1986), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE (Computer), working in CANADA in a Non IT Field Seeks a working girl in Canada and holding a PR Visa. Contact email : anniedrz@gmail.com

**7101. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1988), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Logestics doing part time MBA. Working as an Asst. Manager. Contact email :

gracian.moras@gmail.com

**7061. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1989), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 90 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th, working for Central Railway Mec. Ftr II, Contact email : pkevindsouza@gmail.com

**7100. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., working as a Event Coordinator. Contact email : celeseinepereira@gmail.com

**7047. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachaelor, (Born in November 1982), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., C.S. in Process, having family business. Contact email : mail.soj@gmail.com

**7099. USA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1988), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 82 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., working as a Computer Engineer in USA. Contact email : willatauro@gmail.com

**7039. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, Handicap - slight Scoliosis - taking treatment, spine slightly curved. (Born in September 1976), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. Computer Prog. / Hair Designer, Having own business. Contact email :

reginarodrigues634@gmail.com

**7088. MYSORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1983), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA. Marketing. well employed. Contact email :

vishwasturners@yahoo.com

**7040. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.C.A., MBA Pursuing, working as a GIS Analyst in MNC. Contact email : ronaldpereira1210@gmail.com

**7084. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Ro-

man Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1956), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 9th std., working as a Machine Operator. Contact email : fern.gilbert54@gmail.com

**6862. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1983), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., well settled working in Mumbai. Contact email : keith\_peter1983@yahoo.co.in

**7079. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1962), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 67 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Inter MBA, working as a Manager. Contact email : archielewis.al@gmail.com

**6531. POONA :** Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1975), Ht. 6', Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. M.Com., Having well established business. Contact email : tony137@rediffmail.com

**7077. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Manager. Contact email : leroy2266@gmail.com OR Mob: 9503282306

**6250. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1974), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 76 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Manager. **Contact email : cardoz.clint@gmail.com OR 9833563182**

**7068. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1983), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Customer Service. Contact email : cynthiadalmeida83@gmail.com

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# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

**7173 BANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelor of Engineering in EEE, working as a Sr. Engineer. Contact email : clara.kalare@gmail.com

**7081 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1993), 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters of Dentistry (MDS), Dental Surgeon, Doctor by profession. Contact email : carlferns93@gmail.com

**7166 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Christian Parents seek alliance for their daughter, (Born in May 1992), Ht. 5'4", having completed her BCAF, presently working with MNC in Mumbai. Contact email : ste004ffy@yahoo.in

**7128. MUMBAI :** Affluent business family R.C. East Indian Spinster, (Born in 12-04-1988), Ht. 5' 2", very beautiful and pretty. Edn. MS General Surgeon, Doctor by profession. Contact email : drvd2019@gmail.com

**7125. CANADA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1983), Ht. 5' 8", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., working as a Consultant. Contact email : llmendonca@shaw.ca

**7134. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1992), Ht. 5', Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Modification and Writer. Contact email : jacklinemascarenhas@gmail.com

**7126. U.S.A. :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1992) from Mumbai, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Computers) from Mumbai, M.S. (Information Systems) from US. Possesses H1B visa and is working as a Technical Analyst with an MNC in USA. Contact email : wilfyjoy1315@gmail.com or call +91

98603 02527 / + 91 9970172527

**7131. DUBAI :** Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. T.Y. B.Com., working as a Manager. Contact email : rebecca.raj06@gmail.com

**7066. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., (EXTC) M.S. (International Business Management), working as a Consulting Manager. Contact email : l2018anselm@yahoo.com

**7120. CANADA :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1986), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 51 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., University of Toronto, working as a Customer Support for Canada Government. Contact email : joafaria@yahoo.ca

**6741. MANGALORE :** Mangalorean RC spinster, 26 years, 5' 3", Doctor, Qualification : MD. Very fair and beautiful. Belongings to an affluent business family. Email : sona68500@gmail.com

**7115. MUMBAI :** Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1989), Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, smart and good lookingt, Edn. VIth Std., Non working, homely. Contact Mob: 7021135272

**7160. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS, working as a Senior Merchandiser in a Global Retail Company in Dubai. Contact email : prislobo10@gmail.com

**7108. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1990), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. (Aviation), Ae SI (Part), AME (Aircraft Maintenance Engineer), working as a Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. Contact email : lucyann.alvares@yahoo.com

**7124. CANADA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1993), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.M.S., M.B.A. Operation, working as a Coordinator in Shipping Company. Contact email : carrel.dsouza@gmail.com

**7107. MUMBAI :** Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Brown Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a Commercial Executive. Contact No. 8108216595 email : jkanth74@gmail.com

**7123. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., CS., M.Sc., working as a Sr. Manager Programmer. Contact email : r.douza.co@gmail.com

**7106. AHMEDNAGAR :** Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in January 1986), Ht. 5' 3", Fair Complexion, Edn. High School, Contact email : anthonyfernandes9850@gmail.com

**6970. MUMBAI :** Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 48 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. CS & LLB., working as a Company Secretary. Contact email : mendonsajacinta@gmail.com

**7122. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1993), Ht. 5', Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. IT., working as a Tech Support Engineer. Contact email : lynettelewis67@gmail.com

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# FACT creates Fiction - Goa Inquisition

**M**isinformation unsupported by verifiable historical content is consistently propagated about the Goa Inquisition, reasons are many. Recently an 'exhibition' entitled Goa Inquisition - The Epitome of Christian Missionary Violence floated on the internet by a group with the acronym FACT (Foundation for Advancement of Cultural Ties). Viewed by serious historical research, it is replete with numerous factual gaffes, misconceptions, and distortions. Readers may access FACT for fiction; here highlighting some facts drawing from original documents and other sources.

The archives in Lisbon preserves an inventory dated 1774 with 16,000 odd names of persons investigated by the Inquisition from 1561 to 1774, and further details of over 5,000 persons of them sentenced in 61 autos-da-fe from 1650 to 1801. These identify names, nationalities, castes, professions, numbers, offenses, relationships, and sentences. They include Portuguese, other Europeans, Africans, Asians, priests, Indians of many castes, professions and religions, slaves, soldiers and others. Their offenses relate to participating in non-Christian practices in Portuguese territories, heresy, bigamy, sodomy, associating with Muslims, priestly misconduct, etc.

The Goa Inquisition reported to the King of Portugal, NOT the Pope. Its objectives were to root out heresy, viewed in Roman law as treason. By definition, heresy was a crime that could only be committed by a Christian. Inquisitors carried out investigations and passed sentence; civil authority executed the sentence.

Francis Xavier was NOT responsible for bringing the Inquisition to Goa. All

he did was, like others, write a letter to the king asking for it to counter a growing threat perceived from New Christians and Muslim influence in Portugal's Asia. That letter was written 14 years before the Goa Inquisition was established in 1560. Xavier died eight years earlier. The decision to send the Goa Inquisition involved a long tussle between pro- and anti-Inquisition policy makers in Lisbon.

Inquisitor Figueira's report (1623)



confirms the focus of the inquisitors in the first 40 years of the Inquisition's operations: Christians who committed offenses related to Judaism and Islam (constitutes 45.2% of the total 1,582 cases). Offenses related to gentildade, which covered a range of offences connected with pre-conversions rites and rituals, rise only from 1600. Out of 5,108 individuals who appeared in 61 auto-da-fes between 1650-1801, 70% were Christians.

The Inquisition prosecuted over 260 priests and friars, Europeans and Indians, for various offenses, mainly associated with doctrine and heresy.

Torture was used in rare cases to extract confessions from obstinate persons. Torture was not devised by the Inquisition but adopted from prevailing practice in European civil courts. The 61 auto da fe lists reveal 39 were burnt at the stake, 0.76% of the total, either as relapsed heretics or sod-

omites. All were Christian. The reason is simple: burning was reserved only for relapsed heretics. Non-Christians did not appear in autos-da-fe. They were punished with prison terms and labour in gunpowder factories, galleys, exile, and fines.

The Inquisition has often been cited as the cause of large numbers of Hindus and Christians emigrating to Kanara. Statistics debunk this. Estimates from



(Contd.. from p. 22)

an 1801 census of Kanara suggest an initial emigration of under 2,000 Konkani-speaking non-Christians. Christian emigration was far higher for a simple reason: they lived mainly off the land. Continuous wars with Marathas and excessive taxation severely affected agriculture leaving no option but migration. By 1784, I estimate around 50,000, roughly 20% of the combined Goa-Kanara Christian population, had settled in Kanara and Mysore.

tion's operations allowed it to fall victim of a very successful propaganda campaign undertaken by Protestant countries, especially England and the Netherlands. Depicting the Inquisition as an engine of terror and injustice served the purpose of delegitimizing Spain's claim to being a leader of a Christian world. England's clerics, Portugal's rival in converting India's "heathen" soul to Christianity, brought this campaign to India when British forces had briefly occupied Goa. The "bigotry" theme was later taken by motivated Indian lobbies.



Gentios (Hindus) dominated Goa's economy with resources, acute financial acumen, and a business and trading network that extended beyond Goa's borders. Wealthy gentios had a privileged status in Goa. An envious Christian convert remarked that Portuguese officials offered a seat to a gentio but made a Christian stand. A 1774 architectural plan reveals shops in the Palace of the Inquisition were rented out to gentios. Their rents helped finance the Inquisition's operations.

Portuguese Goa imported rice from Kanara. This rice, grown by Hindus in Kanara was carried in boats owned by Hindus to feed Christians in Goa, was guarded by the Portuguese (Christian) navy from attack by Hindu pirates operating off the Kanara coast. The trade was conducted by Hindu merchants. Where does Hindu and Christian come in all this? It was just plain and simple trade and commerce in which Hindu and Christian, Goa and Kanara were partners.

The secrecy shrouding the Inquisi-

I am no apologist for the Inquisition. Yet, it is important to understand the



Alan Machado  
(Prabhu)

The Author : Alan Machado (Prabhu) is a committed researcher and passionate investigator of history and a prolific author; descendent of of the Machado (Prabhu) ganvkars of the 12th vangod of Aldona who migrated to Mermajal (Bantwal - DK) c1680. The family was devastated by the captivity 1784-99. An Engineer by profession, Alan worked in the UK and Australia. His maiden book "Sarasvati's Children" a history of the community from pre conversion times to recent times, is admired and of great value. His other books include " Shades within Shadows" and "Slaves of Sultans" which are a must read. This brief edited article about the Goa inquisition is to enlighten people of the truth and correct the misinformation being currently spread by a section of people.

nuances, the circumstances, the forces under which it was founded and operated. It is important to understand, why, in 1642, Salcete's most influential community, its ganvkars, petitioned the king to use the Inquisition to investigate and punish corrupt officials as there was no one else who could do it without fearing reprisals.. It is important to understand why, Delton, after four years of incarceration and humiliation, wrote: "I do not pretend to censure the Inquisition itself; I am even willing to admit that the institution may be good."

Adapted for SC By :  
Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

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