

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

Vol.29 Issue No.50

(Total Pages 24)

Mumbai, 14 - 20 December, 2020

Rs. 10

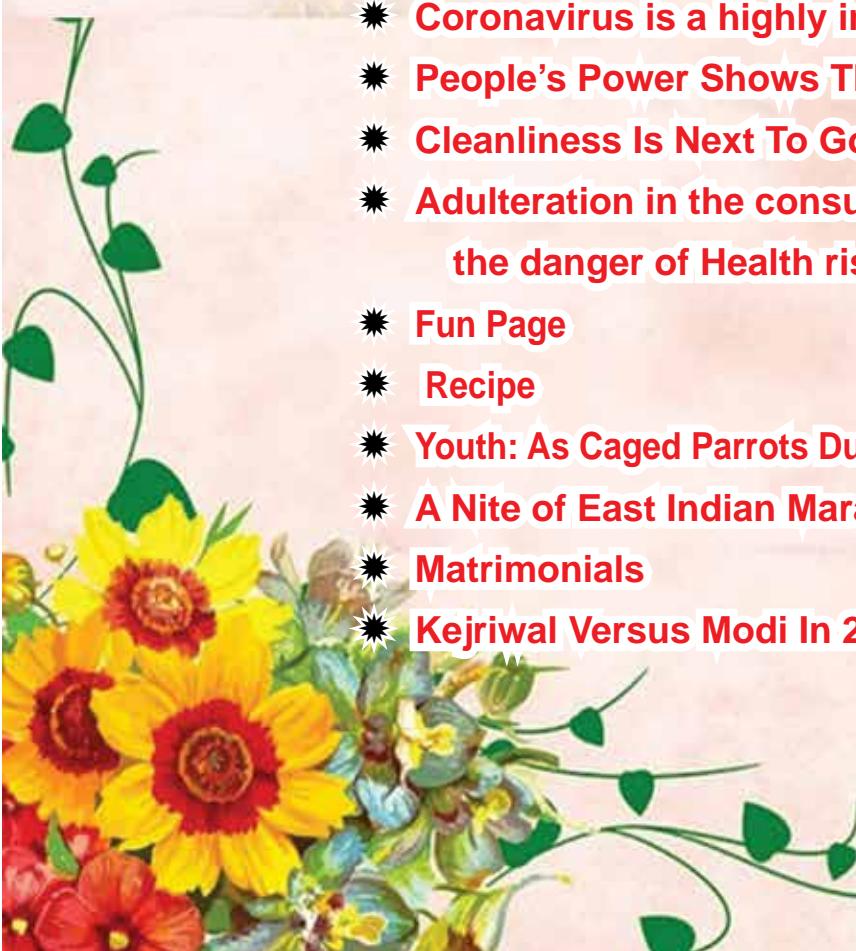
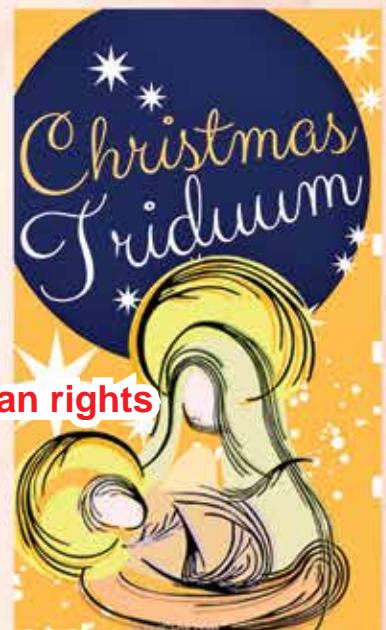
A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Read inside:

GOOD
BYE
2020

Welcome
2021

- ★ A Triduum For Christmas!
- ★ Fr. Stan Swamy's arrest is a violation of human rights
- ★ Voice of the People
- ★ Choosing Our Bishops
- ★ Can We Just Get to 2021...?
- ★ M'lore's pioneer special institution marks 50 years :
1970 - 2020
- ★ Coronavirus is a highly infectious disease
- ★ People's Power Shows The Way
- ★ Cleanliness Is Next To Godliness
- ★ Adulteration in the consumer market cause of worry and
the danger of Health risk
- ★ Fun Page
- ★ Recipe
- ★ Youth: As Caged Parrots During this Pandemic
- ★ A Nite of East Indian Marathi songs
- ★ Matrimonials
- ★ Kejriwal Versus Modi In 2024



A Triduum For Christmas!

It is significant that the Church's Liturgical Year begins with the Season of Advent and concludes with the Solemnity of Christ the King. However, the observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception which falls right in the midst of Advent somehow unifies the Solemnity of Christ the King and the Season of Advent with itself into a power packed Triduum of preparation for the great wonder of Christmas! Interestingly, while the Solemnity of Christ's priestly-prophetic kingship that comes through as the feast of man's striving for godly perfection, God Himself having gone the whole hog of becoming human among us in the incarnation for our sake, the Immaculate Conception of Mary brings out succinctly the role of Mary as Mother-Disciple-Queen in the greatest love story ever told: the story of God's love as spelt out in the Passion-Death-Resurrection of His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ!

Papal approbation

It was on 8 December 1854 that Pope Pius IX, urged by an overwhelming majority of the bishops of the Catholic Church, solemnly emphasized in his bull, *Ineffable God*: "We declare, announce, and define that the doctrine which states that the Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of God Omnipotent and because of the merits of Jesus Christ the Saviour of the human race, free from all stain of original sin, is revealed by God and must be believed firmly and with constancy by all the faithful." What, however, is our understanding of this beautiful truth that has been immortalized by the Catholic Church?

"I am the Immaculate Conception!"

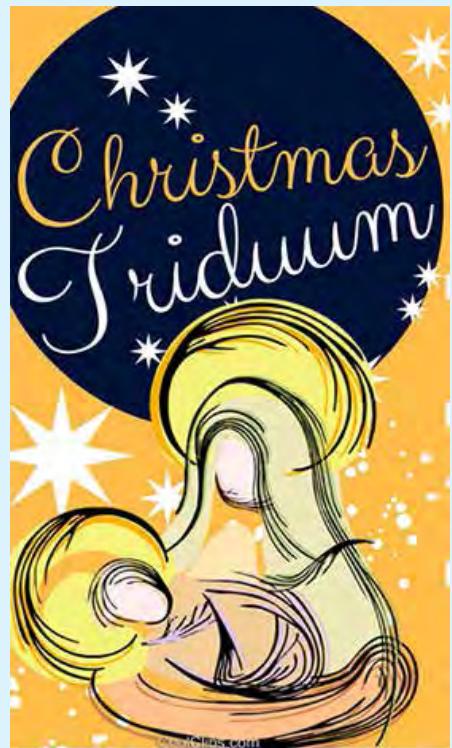
There is no gainsaying the fact that

without an understanding of the origin and meaning of the word IMMACULATE our appreciation of the very Dogma of the Immaculate Conception remains incomplete. 'Immaculate' comes from the Latin word '*immacula*', which means pure, stainless, spotless as against '*macula*' which means impure, stained, spotted. Perhaps it might help to understand it better in the Indian context where cuttlefish is called 'maakul' or 'maakli' in certain dialects. We have seas and oceans across the world named differently and yet, the link or connectivity between the waters of these giant seas and oceans is invisibly real! Any reason, then, to doubt the link between the Italian *macula/immacula* and the Indian *maakul* or *maakli*??!



by Ladislaus L
D'Souza

Significantly, in response to a query by Bernadette Soubirous during her sixteenth apparition at Lourdes, 25 March 1858, Our Blessed Mother is said to have asserted, "**I am the Immaculate Conception!**" Coming barely four years after Pope Pius IX's encyclical, Mary's assertion was a virtual ratification of the Church's dogma! The overriding comment of Bernadette—who was canonized in 1933 by Pope Pius XI—in relation to Mary's last apparition, the 18th one on 16 July 1858 was: "I have never seen her so beautiful!" Any wonder then that William Wordsworth in his sonnet titled "The Virgin" described Mary in 1822 as "our tainted nature's solitary boast"! Obviously considered as beauty incarnate, Mary's spotless conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anna, marks the dawn of the New Covenant – a covenant that celebrates our orientation by God for receiving our Saviour and Lord, whose coming at Christmas and at end-time we prepare for during Advent. It is also significant that the observance of this beautiful attribute concerning Mary falls in the



midst of the Holy Season of Advent, barely a fortnight before Christmas that celebrates the virgin birth of her Son Jesus! This fact, combined with our understanding of the meaning of MADONNA, a term that is a combination of two old Italian words, viz., *ma*, meaning 'my' and *donna* meaning lady and which came to be used in reference to Mary in 1854, aptly leads us to a reflection on the **Five Joyful Mysteries**, as we shall see below.

Lighting a candle, dispelling the darkness...

Essentially, the First Sunday in the Holy Season of ADVENT has us lighting the First Purple candle in the Advent Wreath, the candle of HOPE. Indeed! What was the **Annunciation**, the very First Mystery of the Holy Rosary, all about if not setting into motion that beautiful cycle of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE that has the reality of the promise of Salvation fulfilled as signified by the lighting of the white candle, also known as the 'Christ candle'! Appropriately, our

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Vol.29 Issue No.50 December 14-20, 2020 Rs.10/-

99, Perin Nariman Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.

Mobile: +91 9820485389 / 9820473103

E-mail : secular@sezariworld.com / seculardivo@gmail.com

Website: www.sezariworld.com

Editor: LAWRENCE COELHO

Subscriptions Rate:

One year (anywhere in India) Rs. 500

Two years (anywhere in India) Rs.1000

Five years (anywhere in India) Rs. 2000

One year (outside India) Rs. 3500

E-paper Edition

sent anywhere in the world (by email)

One year

Rs. 600 or US \$ 15

Advertisement Tariff

Over all size 21.5 cms x 27cms • Print area 18 cms x 25.5 cms

Full pg. back Colour (19 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 18,000

Center spread colour(39 cms x 23.5 cms) Rs. 18,000

Full pg. inside Cover colour(18 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 12,000

Full pg. inner colour (18 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 10,000

Half pg. Colour (18 cms x 12 cms) Rs. 6,000

Full page B/W (18 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 7,000

Half page B/W (18 cms x 12 cms) Rs. 5,000

Small Size Ads B/W

12 x 12cms Rs. 2400 • 6 x 24cms Rs. 2400

18 x 6cms Rs. 1800 • 6 x 12cms Rs. 1200

6 x 6cms Rs. 700

Matrimonial Classifieds:

● Rs. 500 per insertion (for 35 words) (includes box no.)

● Rs. 3000 for 12 insertions. (1 year The Secular Citizen FREE)

Digital copy of **THE SECULAR CITIZEN** now available through WhatsApp / Email for subscribers worldover. Send in your request to : +91 - 9820485389 or secular@sezariworld.com

(Contd.. from p. 2)

gaze must needs turn to those whose hope for a better tomorrow has begun to waver on account of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown or on account of whatever other reason. What does the first purple candle of Advent call us to do in any given situation? Pondering over this query cannot but bring us to the Second Joyful Mystery, the **Visitation**!

Looked at from a truly wide perspective, this mystery clearly represents **PEACE**, the lighting of the second purple candle heightening our wait for the coming of Christ at Christmas! Indeed, Mary's visitation to Elizabeth is all about the retention of peace of mind and the peace of the family in times of need and difficulty. Already in the early stage of pregnancy herself, Mary instinctively knew the kind of help her cousin Elizabeth would need in her advancing pregnancy, bearing in her womb the precursor of the Redeemer no less! The lighting of the second candle, the candle of Peace, challenges us to make a home for peace in our hearts and to ensure that those we interact daily with experience peace flowing from our hearts!

Golden era of new life!

The Third Joyful Mystery, the **Nativity of Our Lord**, marks a golden mo-

ment in the annals of human history, for on that fateful night in Bethlehem, God, who created us in His own image and likeness, shared our humanity in order to save us from our sins! The very profundity of this very significant God-Man miracle occurrence must have rendered the period of time from the Immaculate Conception of Mary to the Virgin Birth of Jesus probably the climax of man's long wait for the Redeemer! Seen from this perspective, the lighting of the **CHRIST candle** cannot but cause goose pimples to erupt all over us! And do we, our hair standing on its ends, hear the first Gloria intoned by the angels, announcing to the shepherds the birth of our Saviour? If we do, we will never fail to hear the shepherds exclaiming in wonder "Come! Let us go and see what the Lord has made known to us! O come let us adore him....!" (cf Lk 2:15) And adore him we indeed shall at Christmas 2020 and always!

The Fourth Joyful Mystery, the **Presentation of Our Lord**, is an apt reminder to us not merely of Joseph and Mary's sense of obedience to the Law but also of the **JOY** with which the humble shepherds presented themselves at the Manger that First Christmas night and which they experienced at the sight! That joy is well expressed in the lighting of the **PINK Candle**! Joy at the coming of our King at Christmas!

Joy at His coming at the end-times!

Reign of Love supreme!

Finally, the Fifth Joyful Mystery, the **Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple** is implicit of the **LOVE** of Joseph and Mary for Jesus that had them travel three long days on foot in search of their little son, the soon-to-be Saviour-King on the one hand, and on the other, of the **love of the Father for us His human creation**. As Francis Thomson so beautifully brings out the truth of God's love for us in his 182-page long poem, *The Hound of Heaven* – God comes searching for us precisely in order to save us from ourselves as it were. And so we have the glow of the last **PURPLE candle** of Advent warming the cockles of our hearts in anticipation of the end of the long wait both on our part and God's, ours for the Saviour and God's for our constant return to Him, to celebrate with Him the life of eternity He had ordained for us when He declared eons ago: "I will send my messenger..." (Mal 3:1a). Until then, let our prayer in song be:

*Bestir thy power and come Lord
To save our sin laden race!
Reveal thy bounty and goodness
Diffuse thy splendour and grace!*

Fr. Stan Swamy's arrest is a violation of human rights

The incarceration of the 83-year-old Jesuit priest Stan Swamy, who has Parkinson's disease, has outraged many Indians. The veteran tribal rights activist has worked for over 50 years in Jharkhand, fighting for the adivasis on land, forest and labour rights. The charges against this ailing social worker

with 'anti-national' conspiracies vis-a-vis the Bhima-Koregaon case, the prosecution is aiming to discredit law professionals and social reformers who raise their voices for the rights of the poorest of the poor. Fr. Swamy must be freed at the earliest before he loses his life in jail.

The National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled has recently written to the National Human Rights Commission seeking its intervention to provide "reasonable accommodation" to

Swamy, who has been in detention in Nagpur Central Jail since the last two months. It is shameful that an ailing elderly man, who needed a straw to drink because of his debilitating condition, was being denied basic help and was forced to seek help from the court and the people of the country just to be able to nourish himself. In the meantime, Fr. Swamy is also suffering from severe dehydration physically and the worst kind of humiliation mentally. This is inhuman, cruel and stinks of political vendetta. The State and its law and order agencies never liked him because he has been consistent in questioning the non-implementation of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. This is the kind of inhuman treatment social activists get in India under the Modi government.

The Catholic community in India has always been working for the develop-

ment of the poor and the downtrodden. It is through hardworking, sincere and committed persons like Fr. Stan Swamy that the Catholic Church has worked for the welfare of the poor of the poorest in this country.

Fr. Stan Swamy is today being punished by an inhuman system and a corrupt regime because he had the courage to empower the Adivasis and other excluded of our country. He has selflessly been accompanying them in their quest for justice and dignity.

Fr. Swamy was born in 1937 in Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu. He joined the Jesuit order after completing his schooling at St. Joseph's High School in Tiruchi. As a part of his early training towards priesthood, he taught at St. Xavier's High School in Lupungutu village in West Singhbhum district, which was then in undivided Bihar. According to his biography, he specifically chose Bihar as a place to work and study in as it was a home to India's poorest of the poor.

— Jubel D'Cruz

Keep Mosquitoes Away Use Medicated Mosquito Net for an Undisturbed Sound Sleep



- Medicated mosquito net.
- You can wash 20 times.
- You can use for 3-5 years.
- Manufactured as per WHO/PES specification.
- No smell, no taste, any one can use.
- Available in Single & Double size -small, Medium and Large size.
- Safe for All.
- Provides long lasting protection against mosquitos and other insects.

Sleep Naturally -
no coil, no liquid, no chemical sprays -
only medicated mosquito net. use it for years

For Orders:
Call: 091 - 9820485389
WhatsApp: 091 - 9820485389
Email : secular@sezariworld.com



Revisit Gospel

The season of Advent is upon us. It will lead upto the Christmas season which ends on January 6. As Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, one would do well to revisit the four parts of the Holy Bible, known as the Gospels. The Gospel of St. Luke tells us the most about Jesus' birth, and the Gospel of St. Matthew tells us another part of the story. The Gospel of St. John tells us that Jesus Christ came from God to bring His Word or message to all. The Gospel according to St. Mark describes Jesus' adult life, introducing it with the words, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God....". Mark tells of John the Baptist who predicts the coming of a man more powerful than himself. As Boney M. sang, "And man will live for evermore because of Christmas day" (meaning, Christ's birth).

Advent gives us a vision of our lives as Christians and shows us the possibilities of life.

—Jubel D'Cruz,
Dombivili, Mumbai

Banking scenario grim

Covid-19 has not only taken a toll of millions of lives in the country, but also eaten into the vitals of the country's economy, causing a nationwide slowdown in economic activity , rendering lakhs of people jobless and threatening the livelihood of several others. Millions as a result are facing a bleak and uncertain future, especially the senior citizens who now have to manage on the meagre interest rates on their Fixed

Deposits in private and public sector banks, which are now down to rock bottom level. To make matters worse , a few private and Co-opertaive banks are placed under RBI moratorium on all banking transactions, including withdrawals by depositors. The situation is so bad that depositors who are facing hardships in their day to day living because of financial constraints, are also unable to withdraw from their Fixed deposits in times of emergencies. A few private and Co-operative banks are also fighting for survival and now luring their clients by offering attractive fixed deposit interest rates to replenish their depleted reserves. The bait is too difficult to resist, but the fear of RBI sanctions and overnight closure of private and Co-operative banks continues to loom large over depositors, who now have become wiser and prefer to play safe by investing in public sector banks even at rock bottom interest rates or keep their money safely at home . The entire banking system in the country has become so unsafe and dicey, that no one can be sure which bank is safe and what will be the fate of their life savings when one wakes up in the morning.

— A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim, Goa

Should have explained the Situation

With reference to Malaika failures, allow me to refer to your last issue and matter published in this regard. Under the name of 'A F Noronha, Goa', the writer has very rightly pointed out that Malaika and its key operators flourished and grew by the blessings of Churchmen and certain

media build up. I am not aware if this person is an investor or not, or if she/he is aware of the deep distress and depression that the collapse of this Malaika has caused to unsuspecting simple people, mostly elder members, who invested their savings in this organisation and are now in penury practically.

It is most astonishing and distressing that Malaika Chairman Mr.Gilbert Baptist and Directors, over the whole of year 2020, made no move to officially and in terms of law, inform and explain the true situation and present a preventive plan, which is very morally and professionally wrong and suspect.

Under the circumstances, and considering that 99% of investors / depositors are from the Konkani Catholic population of Mumbai, Mangaluru, Goa and overseas, it is positively called for that the Church authorities and the concerned media publishers, who have stood by and now silent/not visible, should immediately intervene and form a suitable platform to resolve this sordid matter which reflects badly on the community. Urgently needed that the matter is defused by recognised community and Church leaders. The fact that so far these have made no apparent move does not reflect well. This is an appeal on behalf of the suffering investors, particularly in Mangalore who are facing untold and serious hardship and stress.

It may be noted that as of today, Mumbai dailies have published that 3 directors have been taken into custody and remanded till December 8, on refusal of bail by the Supreme court. This fact surely calls for a face saving action by social/ community leaders in Mumbai and Mangalore; and the sympathizers of Malaika. Also, the Govt. Body issuing the approval to run the firm should duly investigate and intervene. No, doubt that those who have initiated legal action will gladly consider a fair and early resolution.

—Ivan Saldanha-Shet,
Mangaluru.

Choosing Our Bishops

(A sequel to DO WE NEED BISHOPS?)

When I wrote the previous article on the need or role of bishops I expected howls of protest. Surprisingly, I received mostly positive feedback, including from several priests whom I have never met. So obviously I had my finger on the pulse of the community, or had touched a raw nerve. It necessitated this sequel.

If the church today is an organised society, then it surely needs headship. The question that I had previously addressed was what was the role of bishops and how they had evolved, or mutated, over time. If the church is also a spiritual body, then it does need some form of spiritual leadership. It cannot be a headless chicken running frantically around to eventually collapse.

The recent instances of erring cardinals in the west, and devious or dubious bishops in India, raises a critical question; "Who or what kind of persons should be our bishops or spiritual heads?" The Vatican II documents and Canon Law are explicit about the intrinsic qualities of head and heart that bishops should have. I have already touched on that in the previous article, so there is no need of repetition.

The point that we now need to address is, "Where do we find these worthies? Who chooses or appoints them?" This crucial question cannot be left unanswered. Besides Catholic journals, I receive 5 Catholic news bulletins every day, hence am reasonably well informed about the various forces and factors at play, not just in India, but across the world. For the purposes of this article I shall draw heavily on an article by Rev Ricardo daSilva SJ in Catholic News Update Asia (CNUA)



by chhotebhai *

dated 28/11/20, and the book "A Compact History of the Popes" by Rev P.C. Thomas. We need to address the issue as objectively as possible.

daSilva's article is in response to the Vatican making public the 449 page report on defrocked Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington, USA. His sexual misdemeanours first came to light in 1987. It took the Vatican 32 years to defrock him! How many more sexual and financial crimes would he have committed over those years? How many more lives would he have scarred? The thought is numbing.

daSilva identifies two major reasons for this interminable and unpardonable delay. The first is the total lack of transparency and accountability in the way that the Catholic Church functions. The second is the faulty process by which bishops are chosen – by the bishops themselves. Prima facie this is a faulty system and needs urgent redress.

daSilva describes the selection process in the USA; that I daresay is prevalent in India too. The process begins with a local bishop recommending the names of priests from his diocese to the Metropolitan (regional archbishop). The probables from the diocese are discussed in the regional bishops' meeting. Thereafter three names are sent to the Nuncio (cf Can 377:2). The Nuncio is not bound by these recommendations. He may even consult "lay persons of outstanding wisdom" (cf Can 377:3). Does this actually happen? The Nuncio then sends three names in what is called a terna to the Congregation of Bishops in the Vatican. The head of the Congregation then zeroes in on one name that is submitted to the pope; who in turn is not obliged to accept such a nomination.

In the USA some priests, religious and even bishops have expressed reservations about the present system that could be easily manipulated by personal preferences/ prejudices or even political inclinations. The recent Pres-



People wait in line to vote at the Bishop election



(Contd.. from p. 6)

idential elections have shown how deeply polarised the Catholic bishops and people are. It has been suggested that the laity also have a say in the appointment of their bishops. Further, the names of prospective candidates should be published so that the people are afforded an opportunity to express their aspirations or objections, if any. This would be a process similar to the proclamation of marriage bans.

The existing system in the USA is in all probability also followed in India. But there are exceptions to what is perceived as a universal or inflexible system. Matters India carried a story on 26/11/20 about the diocese of Chur in Switzerland. In 1948 Pope Pius XII had provided for three names to be sent to the diocese for approval. In the present instance the people of the diocese rejected all three names proposed by the pope.

I now move to Thomas' book on the papacy. It is a veritable eye opener. Church history, including that of the papacy, is taught in seminaries, but the laity is deprived of this knowledge. Since the election of popes is well documented it is worth studying. First some bare facts. Of 266 popes to date just 4, beginning with St Peter, were Asian, and three were African. In the early church most of the popes were Greek. However, with the Great Schism of the East in the eleventh century the papacy got confined to western Europe and ultimately to Italy. Over a period of time Byzantine, Roman, French and German emperors controlled the papacy.

Pope Hadrian VI (the 214th pope) was from Holland. After his death in 1523 there were only Italian popes till the election of the Polish John Paul II in 1978. So for 450 years we could hardly call ourselves catholic (universal)!

Clear cut laws for the election of a pope were first formulated by Pope Nicholas II (150th) as late as 1059. So for over a millennium and 150 popes there was a no holds barred contest

for the papacy. In 1274 the General Council of Lyons declared that a new pope should be elected within three days of the demise of the previous one. The cardinal electors would not be given food or water till they elected a new pope. It was as recently as on 22/2/1996 that Pope John Paul II promulgated the present rules and processes for the election of a pope, in his document "Universi Dominici Gregis".

Those of us who are used to seeing an orderly entry of cardinals into a papal conclave in the Sistine Chapel, and waiting for the smoke to emerge from the chimney, need to know that it was not always that way. Let us walk down memory lane.

St Fabian (the 20th) was a simple farmer. A dove rested on his head and it was interpreted as a sign from God. In one shot he was ordained a deacon, priest, bishop and pope! For 4 years (304-308 CE) there was no pope, and again for 2 years before the election of St Meltiades (the 32nd). During the Dark Ages of 900 – 1050 CE there was a rapid turnaround of 36 popes. John XII (the 130th) was just 18 years old when his influential father foisted him on the church as pope. Gregory V (the 139th), the first German pope, too, was just 26 years of age. Benedict VIII (the 143rd) was a layman when elected. Benedict IX (the 145th) had the dubious distinction of having three tenures as pope because there were four claimants at the time.

What was worse was the many "worldly" factors that went into becoming a pope. Nepotism was rife. Nepote is the Latin/ Italian word for nephew/ niece. St Hormisdus (the 52nd) was married and his son Silverius (the 58th) also became pope. In 535 CE 217 African bishops were bought over and brought to Rome for a papal election. Stephen II (92A) and his younger brother St Paul I (93) both became popes. Sergius II (119) had an illegitimate son who also became John XI (125). Benedict VII (135) became pope by murdering his predecessor

Benedict VI. These instances are sufficient to show how extraneous factors went into the election of popes over the centuries.

Returning to India, despite recent scandals, we have not had such a bad legacy in the appointment of bishops that only began in earnest after the establishment of the Indian hierarchy in 1886. By then the darkest hour was over. Nevertheless ethnic chauvinism and nepotism is rampant. Since I live in U.P., I am more familiar with the local scenario. Almost all the clergy of Allahabad, Lucknow and Bareilly dioceses are inter-related.

Lucknow, though it had less than 7000 Catholics in 2013, has produced 6 bishops since its erection in 1940. Its previous three bishops all went on to become archbishops – Cecil D'sa to Agra in 1983, Alan de Lastic to Delhi in 1991, Albert D'souza to Agra in 2007; besides Ignatius Menezes as bishop of Ajmer in 1979 and Oswald Lewis in Jaipur in 2005. The incumbent bishop of Lucknow since 2000, Gerald Mathias, is also from its diocesan cadre.

In contrast, Agra archdiocese that has a Catholic history dating back to Emperor Akbar's time, did not get one of its own priests as its archbishop, till the recent elevation of Raphy Manjaly, who will assume office in January 2021. Allahabad is the second oldest diocese in the north (1886). Post Independence it has had 6 bishops of whom just two – Baptist Mudartha and Isidore Fernandes, were from its own cadre. It makes one wonder as to what "forces" are at work in the choice of bishops.

Do we the people have a choice? Not much, as things stand. It has not prevented me from writing to the Nuncio with my own panel of names, with a small degree of success. I will do so again, now that the see of my parent diocese of Allahabad has fallen vacant.

* The writer has done extensive research on the history of the Church, especially in India, for his forthcoming book "The Jerusalem Code"

Can We Just Get to 2021...?

by Don Aguiar.

FINISHING up dinner one evening last week, I was jolted by a song on my daughter's playlist. In the radio-edited version of "F2020," Avenue Beat delivers a captivating chorus, followed by: "I am kind of done. Can we just get to 2021?"

Turning to my daughter, I joked, "Shouldn't that be a sort of anthem for this year?"

"For many in my generation, it already is," she replied.

It's now December, and 2020 feels like the longest, most brutal year. There are now almost thousands of lives lost in India, vulnerable children missing months of education and tens of millions of people facing economic devastation. Prime Minister Modi's wilful failure to confront the economic situation has brutalized our country.

If that is not enough, Mr Modi continuously stokes fear and hatred in this moment of historic caste and minority reckoning while running roughshod over the rule of law, our democratic norms and institutions. Almost every day, it seems something crazier happens than on the day before.

Still, we are most likely facing even worse in the next few months. The pandemic could crescendo in the cold season. Tensions are escalating, as Mr Modi musters Hindutva supremacists groups and threatens to thwart the peaceful secular democratic nature of the country.

All demagogues are bad for democracy, but some demagogues are worse than others. Great Britain was shrinking into itself even before Boris Johnson became prime minister; his

impact on the history of his country will turn out to be relatively negligible. However, the destruction that Narendra Modi can wreak, indeed has already wreaked, on Indian democracy is immense. It will take decades to repair it.

NRI Bhakts – Support minority oppression, majoritarianism in home country, but support liberal, secular politicians in the country they live so their own minority rights are safe.

The sense of exhaustion, frustration and foreboding so many of us feel is aptly captured in the Avenue Beat song. But so is what gives me hope — getting to 2021. The prospect of change, while by no means assured, may be in sight. To dull the pain and bolster my sanity, I allow myself occasionally to take a few deep breaths and just imagine.

I imagine a future with competent, compassionate prime ministerial leadership, which trusts science and adopts policies to protect the Indian people irrespective of their caste or religious affiliation. A future in which we truly bend the Covid-19 curve, a future with a safe and effective vaccine that is free as well as fairly and rationally distributed.

I conjure a time when Parliament swiftly enacts economic relief that will ease the suffering of ordinary Indians, support our public and private schools and other essential state and local government services, and rescue small businesses.

Daring to dream really big, I envision a prime minister who insists on the dignity and worth of every human being, who fervently believes that what unites us as Indians is far more powerful than what divides us.

A prime minister committed to equal justice and healing; to ambitious reforms to combat systemic racism and reduce inequality; to caste and minority policies; and to transformational investments in education, housing, health care, the environment, jobs and economic mobility.

Exhaling, I think about sleeping soundly again at night, knowing we have an experienced, empathetic, sober and steady prime minister — one who respects rules and norms, understanding that the law applies equally to him? I long for a leader who doesn't bilk taxpayers to line his own pockets or corrupt the government to preserve his own power.

It's way past time we put an end to the era of shareholder capitalism, and have responsibility to their workers, their community, to their country. Why does it feel like we're about to get our pockets picked? The message is clear: Profits are greedy, so spread the wealth around.

The Social Responsibility of Business Is to Increase Its Profits and are obliged to avoid deception and fraud. A company must engage in activities designed to increase its profits, so long as it stays within the rules of the game.

I think in terms of social value, nonprofits by definition announce their ineffectiveness compared with profit-seeking companies. Millennial especially seem to want a "social purpose" from their employer and their jobs.

There's no point in trying to "reimagine capitalism." Capitalism works by creating wealth. Equality comes best through the creation of ever cheaper goods and services, not hand-outs.

The supercomputer in your pocket, same day delivery, heart stents were all generated by reinvesting profits. Other "isms" typically fail because they eventually fritter away the wealth that capitalism had furiously created.

The flip side is that for every rupee government removes from profitable uses through taxes or regulation, it theoretically takes 25 times that amount from compounding social wealth. As each lost rupee reduces investment and potential productivity, and instead goes to whoever public policies favour. Same for environmental, social and governance investing, where distortions diminish returns.

I think capitalism and competition create wealth; other systems slop existing wealth around. Stakeholder capitalism is a passing fad with a blatantly obvious end result. No, profits aren't greedy. They are a critical price signal—a measure of how well a company is deploying capital and creating value for society.

Finally, straining not to let my imagination run too wild, I imagine allies who trust and respect us again. Adversaries who know they cannot influence an Indian prime minister with flattery, lucrative deals or whatever assistance. A Rastrapati Bhavan that upholds our national interests and consistently promotes democracy, secularism and human rights.

Then, I check myself. Soothing as it may be to disappear briefly into my own dreams, I'm inevitably smacked by the realities of this year – can we just get to 2021...? Still, I remember that what may seem like elusive hopes are no more than the reasonable expectations of a deserving public.

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." These words, said often by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., serve as an apt reminder that history is not linear.

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

**had to suspend its print edition due to
Coronavirus Lockdown.**

**Now with the Special Christmas Issue
2020, we are once again starting the
print edition which will be
regularly posted to all subscribers.**

**We urge subscribers / readers to renew
their subscription and support us.
And also find new subscribers from
your dear and near ones**

While progress may ultimately prevail, it comes in fits and starts. Indeed, our dreams may never become our reality.

Yet in my experience, work matters; no one will do the hard bending but you and me. Progress doesn't happen automatically. Together, we must drive it. Surely, we can make 2021 a whole lot better — If they want to spend our hard earned money on social programs, they be honest about it. Say "we need to help the poor temporarily with the tax we pay so they can get better jobs and stand on their own." Fine, we're in. But the more they hide behind word salads and social justice jibber-jabber, the less we're interested.

The Government is the guardian of human rights, but it is the civil society that ensures that they are protected, secured and delivered. Today, when human rights are being violated at all levels of our society and the administration also acts as an accomplice, the question everyone is asking is 'How do we protect our rights?'

We require to and come up with concrete solutions.

Subscriptions for

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

Renewal as well as New, can be sent through Bank Fund Transfer to any one of the following banks:

Bank: HDFC Bank

Branch : CST - Mumbai VT

Account Name: The Secular Citizen

Current Account No. 03552000006744

ISFC code: HDFC0000355

or

Bank: Citizen Credit Co-op Bank Ltd.,

Branch : Colaba, Mumbai

Account Name: The Secular Citizen

CurentAccountNo. 2090031000000489

ISFC code: CCBL0209003

Please inform us through email: secular@sezariworld.com or through phone: 9820485389 after transferring the same.

**Please renew your
subscription if expired.
Mention your subscription
no. while sending the
renewal amount**

M'lore's pioneer special institution marks 50 years : 1970 - 2020

On November 26, 2020, a solemn Mass, heralded the completion of the golden 50 years of St.Agnes Special School at Bendur the pioneer institution of this kind in the city, spearheaded by the Apostolic Carmel (AC) nuns. A brief programme followed, it commenced with a prayer song and a welcome dance . Principal Sr Maria Shruthi AC, welcomed invitees and the audience.

The founder principal Sr Maria Jyothi AC and the retired staff members and few committed people were felicitated for their loving and dedicated service to the special children, over the last 50 years. Mangalore Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha was felicitated, as the representative of the past bishops of Mangaluru. Bishop Dr Peter Paul Saldanha appreciated the noble work of the founder principal, present principal, the past and the present staff members. He requested them to extend this noble service to the villages as well, so that the persons with disabilities who are neglected may be benefited by their service.

The golden jubilee was marked by planting trees such as coconut, lime, neem tree, flower plants and fruit yielding trees symbolizing the journey ahead and to face the challenges of imparting caring love on special children with greater determination though it may be filled with bitterness, sweetness or with joy.

Recap of the past :

The year 1970 will always be special in the history of the Apostolic Carmel, the centenary of the establishment of

the Apostolic Carmel Congregation in India. The formal education of girls was the marked mission for 100 years, the Apostolic Carmel Educational Society, Karnataka was keen to extend education to the mentally challenged / special children, it was decided to start a school for these children, as the centenary memorial of the Apostolic Carmel in India.

The school came into being with five children on August 4, 1970, Sr Ma-



officially separated from St. Agnes College and was administered as an independent unit of St Agnes Convent, and "St. Agnes Special School" was now established. Gradually the support of the parents and guardians, was inducted through the Parent Teacher Association in the year 1980.



ria Jyothi AC was the chief architect, started as a project of the psychology department of St Agnes College, on St Agnes Convent premises in 'The Rest'. It was the first school for the mentally challenged children in the twin Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. The motto chosen for the school was 'In Love We Grow'. It helped in drawing out the children with special needs from the background of cold isolation and neglect, to the warmer atmosphere of love and understanding and provided them with the training necessary for the development of their day to day lives. The school helps differently abled students to achieve as much integral development as possible as per individual potential.

The school got its permanent building in 1973 and in 1977 the school was

An attached 'Vocational Training Centre' prepares mentally challenged adults for vocational skills like book binding, carpentry, chalk making, drawing, painting, stitching, flower making and other crafts while some earn, and others spend their time usefully contribut-

ing their best in the production unit. The book binding trade has now developed into book production, every year exercise books are provided to the schools and colleges of the Apostolic Carmel institutions. At present there are 85 adult boys and girls in St Agnes Vocational Training Centre. The special school progressed steadily, space in the existing school building was not sufficient to accommodate them; to mark the opening of the Silver Jubilee Year of St Agnes Special School, the extension block was blessed on August 4, 1994 by the then bishop of Mangalore Dr Basil D'Souza.

At present, there are 200 and more children studying under the school section till they attain the age of 18 years. Opportunity is given to study through the National Institute of Open

Coronavirus is a highly infectious disease

Coronavirus, also known as Covid-19, is a highly infectious disease caused by a newly discovered virus, named Corona. Most people infected with this virus experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment.

To prevent the spread of Coronavirus infection, wearing a mask seems like the best possible defence. It stops the virus suspended in the air from entering into our respiratory tract and causing infection. Studies have shown that masks can reduce the risk of contagion by almost 50 per cent. That's why people are advised to wear a mask before stepping out of their homes. However, a lot of people

Schooling and Karnataka Open School Bengaluru, secondary and senior secondary courses which enable them to complete their SSLC and PUC and thereafter they are able to qualify in professional trade courses.

Active part in various intra and inter school cultural and sports events and have brought rare laurels to the school. Several students have taken part in the Special Olympics too and St Agnes Special School proudly records in its golden year that so far eight students have participated in the International Special Olympics held in countries such as Ireland, Shanghai China, Athens Greece, Australia, Los-Angeles USA and Dubai and have won, making the school proud. All are welcome to support the differently abled children of the school by being a well-wisher, a donor or a volunteer.

- Compiled :
Ivan Saldanha-Shet.



have been complaining about the discomfort they have to face by wearing a mask all day long. Acne outbreak, anxiety, foggy glasses are the most common ones. Another addition to this list is a sore throat.

Several people have complained about getting a sore throat after they wore a mask for a long time and also by using a dirty or a wet one.

As we wash our hands, we also need to clean our clothes and other things from time to time. Masks should also be washed regularly to reduce the risk of exposure to germs and bacteria.

Bacteria, virus, dust and allergens can lead to a sore throat. These particles accumulate on the mask when you use them without washing them for a long time. The tiny particles pass on to the throat, causing irritation and strain. People with weak immunity and allergic to dust or pollen particles are more prone to this.

Even in general, when people wear a mask, they have to speak louder for others to hear them clearly. This can put unnecessary strain on the throat, leading to irritation.

Washing your mask is as important as washing your hands. After every use, wash your mask with warm water and soap. Let them dry under the sun before wearing them again. That is why it is advisable to keep two masks



by Jubel D'Cruz

so that you can use them alternatively.

Avoid touching your mask frequently and wash your hands properly before wearing it and after removing it.

You must remove the mask before going to bed since the plastic part could form a seal around your mouth and nose and make it difficult to breathe.

Here are seven ways to protect you from getting infected from this deadly Coronavirus:

- * Drink plenty of warm water whenever you feel thirsty.
- * Add turmeric powder and salt to hot water and gargle with it.
- * Add a pinch of turmeric powder to your milk, tea or warm water and drink it as often as you can.
- * Do steam inhalation everyday in the morning and in the evening.
- * Avoid ice creams and cold drinks.
- * Eat foods that are rich in vitamins, iron and proteins everyday.
- * Taking vitamin C tablets everyday helps build your immunity and protects you from getting infected from this deadly virus, named Corona.

Taking precautions at the earliest is always better than suffering later on and spending a huge amount of money on doctors who only keep looting you.

Covid-19 has taken the lives of so many people all over the world. This virus has taught us that no money in the world can save us from its wrath but our caring devotion.

People's Power Shows The Way

Goa seems to be showing the way!

Rocked by agitations against coal transportation and rail double tracking, the coastal state has ably demonstrated that even the mightiest of governments can buckle under pressure and give into the wishes of the people.

Though yet to claim an outright victory, it cannot be denied that the vehement protests have been an encouraging start.

This could well have been for the first time that the elected representatives in the government have been approached by the people to endorse an agitation and thus magnify the voices of dissent which have resonated in the corridors of power in the state.

The peaceful march by the people of Nuvem and Loutolim to their MLA's house demanding the scrapping of projects which were not in the interest of Goa and the Goans and the assurances given by the legislator that the Pramod Sawant-led government would respect the sentiments of the people is one such development that should be lauded for its novelty!

The manner in which the state's Water Resources Minister Filipe Neri Rodrigues took to the public address system on Monday to pacify protestors at Nessai railway crossing that he would prevail upon the CM to stop work till the Railway Minister visits Goa is however shrouded in no mystery whatsoever.



by Pachu Menon

For that matter, the eleventh-hour 'intervention' of quite a few from the ruling faction in the on-going protests cannot be seen as anything but a last-ditch effort by the MLAs to keep their heads above the turbulent waters – politically that is.

The show of solidarity with the agitators is unfortunately not born of an innate wish to save Goa for posterity but comes of a desperation to hang on to power under all circumstances, or so it would seem.

Barring the Cortalam BJP legislator who has been the most vociferous critic of the rail double tracking so far, it was quite riling otherwise to observe the reactions of many of the ruling members who were quite conspicuous by their silence over the matter - especially the congress turncoats who hold positions of prominence in the government.

Yet when most of the ministers in the

present government are collective in their opinion that people are having a 'misconception' about rail double tracking being undertaken only to facilitate coal transportation and give assurances of standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the agitators on the streets if there was even the slightest indication of Goa being turned into a coal hub, it becomes all the more confusing.

The MP from North however treaded a moderate path with sensible suggestions of allowing the representatives of the people in the legislative assembly to debate the issue of coal handling threadbare and pass appropriate resolutions keeping the concerns of Goans in mind.

As Sripad rightly said, governments will come and go, but the will of the people must prevail. The resolution of the House will be a testimony of what people of Goa wanted, as the state takes on the path of development.



(Contd.. from p. 12)

Moreover, with a multitude of problems assailing the state, there have been discernible differences between the government and its ministers on a number of issues.

The Goa DGP's tirade against those willfully hindering development projects in the state and warning them of strict police action were they to continue hampering the works has further irked the protestors.

The response of the Opposition leaders to the unrest is quite understandable. If it has been an issue that they wanted to corner the BJP-dispensation with, they have one right at their doorstep.

It is however the manner in which the agitating groups have managed to keep the 'attention-seekers' away from the forefront of the protests that has been commendable.

The conviction that not one individual, but every Goemkar, is a leader in his own right and is spearheading the campaign gives the struggle all the more authenticity.

Besides many NGOs and people from various communities, the fact that the controversial projects are being opposed tooth and nail by most of the village panchayats by adopting resolutions against them gives the stir the tag of a people-centered movement.

Whichever way one looks at it, the adamance of the state government in pushing through with the projects despite strong opposition from the people is more than obvious.

It is however a matter of deep concern that the Fourth Estate has preferred to take a back-seat in the on-going struggle restricting itself to factual reporting without proffering views of its own.

Serious journalism has been struggling for years to survive in the internet era. Going overboard with the 'live'

coverage of any and every bit of news irrespective of its merits, social media has apparently become the voice of the people. Individual opinions do not seem to matter these days.

Now, every protest or agitation has three broad categories of participants giving the campaign the necessary impetus to keep it moving.

The first group is the core of the movement which actually conceptualizes the whole protest and works wholeheartedly and with complete commitment towards realizing its mission.

As the 'drive' gains momentum, it attracts genuinely concerned citizens and those who take a fancy to the idea. Many of them may stick on with the 'crusade' and quite a few will drop out the moment the first signs of trouble crop up. This then is the second assemblage of protestors.

Of course the fence-sitting members in any movement cannot be discounted in the statistical count!

We then have the prodigious crowd of bystanders who add their numbers to the strength of any campaign and are pleased at merely being a part of the whole show. This is the third faction!

Therefore one cannot afford to be swayed by the mammoth crowds that greet any agitation. It is not the true indicator of the success of any movement either.

Under these circumstances it is equally important that public views are not permitted to override individual opinions on any issue.

Nonetheless, the struggle of the people, by the people and for the people against unpopular development agendas of the government is quite evident in Goa!

Becoming better christians.....

The Churches have atlast opened up for Eucharistic celebrations and I'm sure the faithful most have heaved a sigh of relief. There is a proverb which says, "**absence makes the heart grow fonder**" This proverb describes the feeling of greater affection between two people who are kept apart. For the past around eight months, there has been a great distance between us & Jesus, in fact, it is the absence of Jesus in our lives. We have been craving to attend Mass and now finally, we are being permitted to go to church and experience the presence of Jesus. Can we say with conviction then, that this big distance, the absence of Jesus, the long wait has definitely made our hearts grow fonder? Are we beginning to comprehend what we have been missing since the past eight months?

The bigger question is, are we now going to be better christians, better catholics? Or are we going back to being the same old catholics - backbiting, running down somebody's good name, criticising, making people's lives miserable?

It was also great to see the discipline shown by those attending Mass - adhering to the guidelines issued by the church - sanitisation, social distancing, face masks, etc., etc. Can we also display the same amount of discipline when we move out in the open? Can we maintain the social distancing required of us? Are we going to continue wearing our face masks while moving out of our homes, whether it is to the market or travelling?

Can we show to the world and to ourselves, that we have become better catholics? Can others around us say, there goes a better christian than what he or she was before the lock-down? The onus is on us!

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

Cleanliness Is Next To Godliness

Cleanliness is Next to Godliness



It all sounds very impressive on paper. But the biggest challenge we come across as a community we are averse to any discipline when it comes to garbage disposal. We are very particular that our residences remain free of garbage and beyond that we do not bother. This is the reason why most households have been reluctant to practise waste segregation at source. The household and in this we include commercial, industrial and often health rubbish is simply carted to the nearest roadside bin and thrown all around it and it is being considered unhygienic to actually tip the waste into it. Most often than not, the bins are unapproachable, they are surrounded by garbage and that is a sad part of it. In other instances, the bins are overturned by foraging cattle and so are unusable unless someone sets them right back on their base, which none of our residents will do.

It is in this scenario that we are all committed to implementing 100 per cent waste segregation at source within a year. It plans to get its waste collection team to educate residents and get them to begin practising this discipline. Towards this end, we all ensure and collect segregated waste at source, in different bins and then transfer them to roadside bins from where they will be taken away and handed over to the Corporation. There are two loopholes in this. Firstly, the roadside bins will continue to be present and this is the beginning of all indiscipline and we find residents and others will keep tossing unsegregated waste in and around these, as they can then be free of the task of



Jayanthy Subramaniam

sifting their garbage. All talk of identifying offenders and punishing them is hollow as we don't have the means of detection and even if we do, collection of fines in India is an iffy process.

The best option would have been to remove all roadside bins and force people to collect and segregate garbage at source. Secondly, does our Corporation have the wherewithal to handle segregated garbage? This is highly doubtful. We are aiming for perfection in a process where both the start and end points are quite vague. The business of clearing garbage is among the civic body's key tasks. No one notices it if the job is well done, but a well-oiled system ensures that the city does not stink, literally, and that it does not turn into a den of diseases and infections.

It is a matter of great pride that many cities are competing to come first in cleanliness and that is a great news. Cleanliness is next to Godliness and the people living in Mumbai are aware of this. Even schools and colleges in the city impart knowledge and inform the importance of cleanliness to its students. This had a special effect when Coronavirus spread in the city. From the grass root level we find that there are ways and means to make the objective a successful one and the results are in our favour.

It is also notable that we take up utmost importance for solid waste management among cities with a population of over 10 lakh. Now it is up to us to maintain and work for more and more initiatives in the Swachh Bharat initiative. For that to happen, the help and cooperation of people is the need of the hour. Housing societies should work hard to achieve total success. The cooperation of members in segregating wet and dry waste before handing over the same to housekeeping persons is to be given preference. It is also clearly announced that if wet and dry wastes are not separated, the house keeping person will not lift the garbage of your flat. The recent Covid outbreak taught us a lesson and we were able to combat plague, swine flu and Covid with strict measures in the past and continue to do a world of good to society.

Now it is time to make sure that the city is clean and green to give the much needed ambiance required for setting up a smart city. The city will have to take up the additional responsibility of providing quality education, dependable power supply, health consciousness, e-governance, affordable housing for poor, water supply and several other sectors would be the centre of focus under the project. Smart city tag will bring cheers to the citizens of the country and we dream of becoming a place to behold in this world. Let us all work together and make the dream of a clean-green city.

Adulteration in the consumer market cause of worry and the danger of Health risk

Rampant adulteration in food items continue to pose a real threat to the life of people in the satellite city. Adulteration in Milk, food items and eatables is seen in every nook corner of the country. There is no one to catch hold of the miscreants. The crisis had taken a serious turn in the absence of adequate consumer awareness in the public domain. In general, residents in particular are benefited by the presence of the MAFCO wholesale market in the vicinity. But adulteration is the major cause of worry when people go for cheap products in the consumer market. People generally go for seasonal fruits and they enjoy the taste at a cheaper rate. We get plenty of fruits in the market and people go for Mangoes and grapes very much.

Generally they go for Box of fruits and store in their fridge to last longer. But it is sad to note that these fruits are chemically ripened to get early market sales and such fruits are not really good for health. So, it is of utmost of importance to wash the fruits very well before use. In a first in the history of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Maharashtra, a huge quantity of artificially ripened bananas was destroyed by the Inspecting Officials. There bananas were being ripened using a lethal chemical normally used in the wedding industry. You can witness all mangoes lying on the floor and mango brokers packing mangoes in wooden boxes in the market. We must have observed that all mango brokers spraying chemicals (carbide) on Mango openly. Chemical is used by all Mango brokers for



C.K. Subramaniam



ripening fruit so that they can earn more money in less time. All the consumers are paying a premium amount for purchasing fruits and purchasing poison in the bargain from the fruit market. The chemical used by Fruit brokers is harmful to human health.

Alphonso Mango's export was banned due to artificial ripening of the prestigious fruit before export and sent to the UK market for some time. Normally it takes any fruit at least 15 to 20 days to ripen. But we had information about some shops doing ripening artificially. This can be caught by surprise check by the concerned administration. The fruits used to lie along with a chemical powder called calcium carbide. Generally, the bananas were ripened in the room within 12-14 hours due to the presence and effect of the compound in the room.

Needless to say, the bananas no longer remained organic after the chemical reaction. It is noticed that raw

bananas are bought and kept in a red chemical mix in a drum so that they ripen faster. They used to do this in broad daylight. During Festival time people will be using more fruits to appease God and by consuming such artificially ripened fruits people suffer from various diseases and harm the health directly. It is time to take care of your health by not buying such artificially ripened fruits from the market. It is time to curb adulteration in the open market and the health inspectors should have a close watch curbing such activities in the near future.

Even the milk we are using on a daily basis is adulterated and contains more toxic substances. We need to have a fool proof system and even 0.01% is found to be adulterated then those milk farm owners should be penalized with a heavy fine for their offence. Thus adulteration in the consumer market causes worry and the next generation of children will find it very difficult to survive in this adulterated country.

constable responded, "Not at all. I'm just flattening the curve".

Q: Teacher: Didn't I tell you to stand at the end of the line?

A: Student: I tried but there was someone already there!

TEACHER : Pappu, How do you spell "crocodile"?

PAPPU : "K-R-O-K-O-D-A-I-L" !

TEACHER : No, that's wrong.

PAPPU : Maybe it's wrong. but you asked me how i spell it.

Teacher: What are some products of the West Indies?

Student: I don't know.

Teacher: Of course, you do. Where do you get sugar from?

Student: We borrow it from our neighbor..

Student1 :Do you want to hear a dirty joke?

Student 2: OK

Student 1: A white horse fell in the mud.

Two student were chatting:

First: Do you know what is snake's favorite subject?

second: no, you tell.

first: Hissstory!!!

Boyfriend And Girlfriend Are Like Liver Kidney. Boy Is Liver And Girl Is Kidney. If Liver Fails, Kidney Fails. If Kidney Fails. Liver Manages With Other Kidney.

Boyfriend: Babe What You Doing?

Girlfriend: Nothing. Really Tired. Just Going To Sleep Now Honey. And You Sweetheart? Boyfriend: In The Club Standing Behind You

Boss: Where were you born?

Sardar: India ..

Boss: which part?

Sardar: What 'which part'? Whole body was born in India .

2 sardar were fixing a bomb in a car. Sardar 1: What would you do if the bomb



explodes while fixing.

Sardar 2: Dont worry, I have one more.

Santa: I think that girl is deaf..

Banta: How do u know?

Santa: I told I Love her, but she said her chappals are new

Santa and Banta are walking on a road, and they find a 1000 rupee note lying down.

Santa – What should we do now?

Banta- We'll take 50:50.

Santa- What about the remaining 900?

Santa, hard of hearing, realises that he needs to buy a hearing aid, but he feels unwilling to spend too much money.

'How much do they cost?' he asks Manbir, the shopkeeper.

'That depends,' says. Manbir, 'They run from £20 to £2,000.'

'Let's see the £20 model,' asks Santa.

Manbir puts the device around Santa's neck instructing, 'You just stick this button in your ear and run this little string down to your pocket.'

'How does it work?' Santa inquires.

'For only £20 it doesn't work,' Manbir replies, 'But when people see it on you, they'll talk louder!'

Salesman: Sir, do you want this powder ?

Santa: For what ?

Salesman: For ants

Santa: No. If I give powder today, they will ask lipstick tomorrow!!

Santa calls the Help Desk to complain a computer problem.

Santa- When I type computer password, it just shows star star star star. What's the problem?

Help Desk - Dear Santa, those stars are to protect you, so that if a person is standing behind, he can't read your password.

Santa - Yeah, but stars appear even when there is no one standing behind me.

Help Desk - !!!!!

Q: What is a difference between "accident " and "tragedy"?

A: Suppose you with the family are beside a pool. You suddenly push your mother in law into the pool - so it's an accident. If she could swim and gets out, in that case, it's a tragedy!

The newlywed wife said to her husband when he returned from work, "I have great news for you.

Pretty soon, we're going to be three in this house instead of two."

Her husband ran to her with a smile on his face and delight in his eyes. He was glowing of happiness and kissing his wife when she said, "I'm glad that you feel this way since tomorrow morning, my mother moves in with us."

A man is driving with his wife at his side and his mother-in-law in the backseat.

The women just won't leave him alone.

His mother-in-law says, "You're driving too fast!"

His wife says, "Stay more to the left." After ten mixed orders, the man turns to his wife and asks, "Who's driving this car – you or your mother?"

If women ruled the world there would be no wars. Instead, there would just a bunch of angry countries not talking to each other.

The health service in this country is a disgrace. My doctor told me to run 3 miles a day for a month. I'm now completely lost and 90 miles away from home.

**Wedding Invitation, Christening,
First Holy Communion, Mortuary Cards & Religious Goods**
Contact:

David & Company
Rivendell House, 1st Floor, 650,
J. S. S. Road, 2nd Dhabitalao
Lane, Mumbai 400002
Tel.: 22019010 / 2205 7394
2206 0344 / 22079592

Email:davidprinters@gmail.com
www.davidcompany.com

The Temptation Caterers

Perfect Wedding Receptions
AT Unbeatable & Uncomparable Prices
Lawns Available for Weddings, Anniversaries all kinds of parties at Andheri (West)
Capacity 50-100 , 500-1000+
TRESSA D'MELLO
9967374315 / 7900039842
temptationevents@gmail.com

Head Office: Shop No.1&2, Charlie Pereira Compound, Near Raj Laxmi Building, Veera Desai Road, Andheri (W), Mumbai - 400 058.

JACK OF ALL STALL

Reliable House for Religious Goods

Gloria Church Bldg.,
263, Dr. Ambedkar Rd., Byculla,
Mumbai - 400027

Tel.: 23725963, 23749358

Estd: 1951

Prop. B. D'Souza

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

News item, Articles, Stories, Opinion, interview, Poems, etc. can be sent by

WhatsApp: +91 9820485389

Email:

secular@sezariworld.com
news@sezariworld.com
seculardivo@gmail.com

by Post

The Secular Citizen

99, Perin Nariman Street, 1st Floor,
Fort, Mumbai 400001



Lemon Rice

Ingredients:

2 cups cooked basmati rice
4 whole dry kashmiri red chillies, broken into pieces
1 tsp mustard seeds
1 tsp urad dal
1 tsp grated ginger
2 tsp roasted chana dal
6 to 8 curry leaves
1 tsp turmeric powder
2 tsp lemon juice
2 tsp oil
Salt to taste
4 tbsp chopped coriander leaves
Peanuts or cashewnuts (optional)



Method:

1. Heat oil in a non-stick pan and add the red chilies, mustard seeds, urad dal, chana dal and curry leaves.
2. When the seeds begin to crackle, add the ginger. You can also add some peanuts or cashewnuts to it, if you wish.
3. Now add the turmeric powder and the cooked rice. Make sure the rice is not lumpy or sticky or else the tempering will not incorporate well into the rice.
4. Add the lemon juice and salt according to taste.
5. Stir for a minute or two.
6. Garnish with chopped coriander leaves.



Amit Rane,
Pune

Youth is the best period of one's life. It is an inevitable stage that no humans can be an exceptional. During this stage we humans are bound to come across stimulation, affection, infatuation, curiosity, muscle development and even much more. This is a crucial stage of growth where one may be tempted to do mischievous, notorious things. It might extend till one gets graduated, after which, one would take up one's cross and follow one's goals. youth always welcome challenges in their studies, jobs, life, etc... Thus, youth are capable enough to overcome all the obstacles that they may come across while pursuing their goals. As we are in this uncertain situation, consequences of the corona virus especially lockdown are also challenging our youth. In order to sketch out in which way our youth are challenged and how they are facing these challenges during this lockdown, let me narrate the story of four parrots.

Once there were four parrots who were close friends. Always they flew together. One fine evening, a hunter caught these parrots. He took them to his shop for sale and put them separately in four different cages. Initially, all of them were trying to escape from the cages but couldn't. All their efforts were futile and they exhausted finally. Then the hunter began to feed them with tomato, water etc .The first parrot lost its hope and become desperate. So, it took food and decided to be in the cage forever. The second parrot was very active and looking attractive so the hunter sold it out. The third and fourth parrots were very much adamant to leave the cages. Following day, the hunter opened the cages for cleaning. As soon he opened the cages the two parrots tried to fly away. All



**Br. Justin Arokia
Raj SVD
Bhopal**

Youth: As Caged Parrots During this Pandemic

of a sudden, the hunter caught one of them so tightly that it died. But the other parrot managed to escape from the cage. Though the story sounds silly it helps us to understand the reality better. Like these four caged Parrots, we also have four kinds of caged youth. Let us analyze them in the context of lockdown.

The first kind of caged youth are the ones who face the reality. In their case they are aware of what's happening in and around them. They would neither

blame the reality nor themselves but try to cope up with their life in line with the reality. Those youths who make use of their time attending webinars, reading, writing, learning new skills would fall under this category.

The second kind of caged youth are the ones who challenge the reality. This kind of youth know the seriousness of the situation. In spite of that, they are reaching out to the people in need. There are number of youth groups, youth organizations, NGO's, students' clubs that are on their toes to help the humanity irrespective of their religion, language, territory etc...Great salute to them. By doing this great gesture they even challenge the corona pandemic.

The third kind of caged youth are the real heroes of their families. During the lockdown, they really shed their blood in order to feed their families. Many youths had lost their jobs but not their hope. They got somehow employed and are toiling tirelessly even now. Especially youth who have lost their fathers are carrying their families on their shoulders. These are the youth who are the backbone of their families and the Country as well in a broader sense.

The last kind of caged youth are the ones who never care about Corona nor antivirus. They just enjoy their life during the lockdown eating, sleeping and using gadgets. They can be compared to Charvakas, of Indian Philosophy whose aim of life is to eat, drink and make merry. They are like the first kind of caged parrot which decided to stay in the cage because of the comfort it was provided with.

These categories are not imaginary rather they are the realities of the world in which our youth are leading their life. Let us examine ourselves and see which category of youth I personally belong. If we find our life falling under any of the first three categories let us be happy and continue to do what we have been doing. If it is on the fourth category let us try to change our attitudes before it jeopardizes our own career. As a conclusion, youthfulness also depends on how it is utilized by the youth in the prevailing situations and realities. In the book of Sirach, we read, "for gold is tested in the fire." In this context, youthfulness is like gold and fire is like present reality which is lockdown, in metaphoric language. This is the testing period to which all the youth are subjected. If they face challenges and undergo all these hardships, utilized their youthfulness during this lockdown, they would be shining like gold one day.

A Nite of East Indian Marathi songs

Mid the pandemic, celebrate your Christmas with Hazel Parikh's (D'Souza before she married Raju, a Gujarati businessman) online singing competition of East Indian Marathi songs on December 25, 2020 from 8.30 pm onwards. Hazel was the first person along with her friend Polly D'Mello to release an East Indian Marathi audio cassette comprising of original East Indian Marathi songs in the year, 1982 when the community did not have any audio cassettes or CDs of their own.

Since it was the first East Indian Marathi cassette, it sold like hot cakes within the community. And like Zeenat Aman after doing '*Hare Rama Hare Krishna*' with Dev Anand, Hazel rose to fame overnight.

As of today, Hazel has sung a lot of Marathi songs in East Indian Marathi dialect, all original, on stage, on TV and for Catholic weddings. Hazel also has a lot of audio cassettes and CDs to her credit.

She is going live on December 25, 2020 singing all her original East Indian Marathi songs by singing them online from her audio cassette, 'Village People'.

"*Galyan Sakli Sonyachi Hi Pori Kaunachi*" is a lively melodious song that originated in the '*Aapli Mobai*' East Indian community and it literally means "Golden chain around your neck, tell me whose lovely daughter you are." The song is sung at all East Indian weddings and also at picnics. It has also been sung and picturised in Bollywood movies like '*Toofan aur Bijlee*' and '*Dil Hai To Manta Nahin*'. In "*Toofan aur Bijlee*", the song has been picturised on Tun Tun and other junior artistes. In '*Dil Hai To Manta Nahin*', the song has been picturised on Deepak Tijori, Pooja Bhatt and others.

The East Indians are descendants of the indigenous Marathi-speaking people of Mumbai and its environs who embraced Christianity during the British regime in India between the years, 1547-1600.



Though drawn from diverse social groups, they developed a 'consciousness of kind' over the centuries, chiefly due to the common religion they professed.

While the masses remained rooted in the rural soil, retaining their Maharashtrian characteristics, the lifestyle of the urbanized sections of the community was gradually transformed due to Portuguese and English influence. They are the original Mumbaikars, and being original inhabitants, hail from Salsette, Vasai, Thane, from Dahanu in the north to Chaul near Alibag in the south.

They were generally identified by their occupations, such as Kunbis (land owners/agriculturists), Bhandaris (toddy tappers), Agris (salt pan workers), Sonars (goldsmiths), etc. To distinguish them from the migrants who came north from Goa and Mangalore, they assumed a new identity and were called 'East Indians'.

The designation 'Bombay East Indian' was adopted on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in the year, 1887 by the leaders of the community.

In fact, the foundation of the East Indian community was laid when thousands in the area from Dahanu in the north to Chaul in the south embraced Christianity. People of a particular pakhadi (hamlet) assumed the same surname, as can be seen from the gravestones and the registers of baptisms, marriages, etc. in the old churches. They assumed Portuguese

surnames and not Christian ones as is often understood.

Those who became Christians were from various social groups like Samvedi Christians, Vadvals, Koli Christians, Salsette Christians, and the urbanized group.

While Marashtrians speak pure Marathi, in the East Indian community, the Marathi language has different dialects, from those spoken in different areas inhabited by the community.

East Indians do keep alive traditional festivals like Agera --- the harvest festival --- and other important ones. They have also released a dictionary in East Indian Marathi dialect, an East Indian annual calendar, and regularly hold the annual East Indian awards function to honour the community members. In addition, they have also an East Indian Museum in Manori.

The special day for the East Indian community is celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of May every year at the Kaka Baptista East Indian Museum at Manori in Malad (West). On this day, East Indians from all over Mumbai and its suburbs come together for a day of rejoicing where games and other entertainment programmes are held. The best dressed male and the best dressed female also gets a prize.

East Indians also celebrate the Madh Island church feast known as the '*Erangal Cha Sann*' in East Indian Marathi dialect on the second week in January every year.

— Jubel D'Cruz

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

7180. U.K. : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1982) Ht. 6', Wt. 77 kgs, Fair, Edn. Chartered Accountant, Profession : Director Insurance Company. Contact email : russ.dsouza@yahoo.com

7164. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1984) Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair, Edn. ITI Course, working as a Techincian. Contact email :

rajesh.ds15@gmail.com

7168. USA : US Citizen Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1985) Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 73 kgs, Fair, Edn. M.Sc., working for a Global Pharmaceutical Company. Contact email :

lspinto84@gmail.com

7152. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1989) Ht. 6', Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., having business. Contact email :

emi_dalmeida@yahoo.com

7146. MUMBAI : East Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in July 1988) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 79 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Mech), + PG course in Finance, working as a Asst. Manager in MNC. Contact email :

lenin.pdsouza@gmail.com

7130. DUBAI : Mangalorean RC Divorcee, (Born in July 1972) Ht. 5'11", Wt. 80 kgs, air Complexion, handsome, simple down to earth, Edn. B.E. (Mech.), Working as an Engineer. Contact email :

francisdSouza472@gmail.com OR 00971501532702

7165. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1979) Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 63 kgs, Fair, Edn. B.Com., Post Graduation in Supply chain & Ship Management, working as an E-commerce online support. Contact email :

examiner4@yahoo.com

7129. MUMBAI : Mangalorean

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Telephone no. of candidate will be printed only with the consent of members.

For Tel. Nos. Please contact:

+91- 9820473103 / 9820485389 or

Email : royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Back Office. Contact email :

roshan7687@gmail.com

7159. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1982) Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Ethical, Healthy, Simple, Sober, Wheatish, B.E. Software Engineer, works @ Mumbai, 9224335003, mariosofttech@gmail.com seeks matrimonial alliance from Mumbai based Catholic Spinster. Please exchange relevant information.

7144. POONA : Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in October 1985) Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Hotel Management Graduate, working as an Executive. Contact email : merrolmenezes@gmail.com

7112. MUMBAI : Converted Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1970), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., & Masters in International Journalism (UK). Looking for a bride below the age of 42 years (below 40 - 42 years) who is willing to raise a family. Contact by email : decemberwedding08@yahoo.com

7133. MUMBAI : Goan RC Handsome Bachelor, (Born in February 1977) Ht. 5'9", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., PG, MBA, working as a Sr. Manager in US IT Company. Contact email : trinidadefranco@gmail.com

7132. MUMBAI : Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in January 1987) Ht. 5'8", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., PG in Advy. / Graphics & Animation, working as a Graphic Designer. Contact email : dcostastephen03@gmail.com

7136. HYDERABAD : Anglo Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in July 1988) Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, having own business. Contact email :

To Place Your Matrimonial
Advertisement Call:

+91 - 9820485389 or 9820473103

- * Check your email at least once a week.
- * Members are requested to inform us when they are settled, so that publication of their details can be discontinued.

phillipctocher@gmail.com

7119. KUWAIT : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 6', Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. F.Y. B.Com. + 2 yrs Hotel Management Diploma. working in Kuwait. Contact email :

fernandes.clayton@rocketmail.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

7118. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1981), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 87 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working in Doha Metro, in Doha Qatar. Contact email :

josephfernandes10@yahoo.com

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

7116. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1988), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 79 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Financial Management, working for US based Investment Bank in Compliance and Audit dept. Contact email :

williamgonsalves123@gmail.com

7114. GOA : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1973), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. 12th + Dip. in Technical Field, working as a Projectionist in KUWAIT. Contact email :

hilarylobo48@gmail.com

Please renew your
subscription if expired.
Mention your subscription
no. while sending the
renewal amount

Address your replies to :

Regd. No. _____

ROYAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY,
99, Perin Nariman Street, 1st Floor,
Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

7179. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1994), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelor of Pharmacy, working in an MNC as a Project Lead. Contact email : lin.r80@yahoo.com

7169 MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1992), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in Event Management. Contact email : rosypetters74@gmail.com

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 : prislbo10@gmail.com

7167 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS. M.Com., and MBA, working as a Business Analyst. Contact email : soulmateforlife2019@gmail.com

7174. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 6", Fair Complexion, Beautiful, Edn. B.Com., MBA, PGDM, working for a Ad Agency in Toronto, **CANADA**. Contact email : roshanmehra@hotmail.com

7163 MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1991), Ht. 5'3", Wt. 41 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com.,PGDM in HR working as a Receptionist. Contact email : dafrin1991@gmail.com

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

6642 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, issueless (Born in September 1979), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65

kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Service Professional. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : rowmonteiro@yahoo.com OR 9820792115

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

7161 MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1986), Ht. 5'6", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. Science, Masters in Mass Media, working as a Asst. Accounts Director. Contact email :

padmarao@gmail.com

7181. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, issueless (Born in April 1974), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a H.R. Contact email : roopaferns@yahoo.co.in

7147 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1992), Ht. 5'4", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance, working as a Fund Accountant. Contact email :

stefsasha09@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

7145 MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 4'11", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Lecturer by profession. Contact email :

andrea210358@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

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

7171 MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1994), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as an Analyst. Contact email :

patriciaswamy94@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

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 :

jacklinemascrenhas@gmail.com

7170 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1996), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working for Bank. Contact email :

jenniferdmello25@gmail.com

Registered members can publish their ad in all the 50 issues in a year for Rs. 8000 only.

If you wish to publish your matrimonial classified advertisement in all the 50 issues in a year, you can do so for an amount of Rs. 8000 only.

To Place Your Matrimonial Advertisement Call:

+91 - 9820485389 or 9820473103

* Check your email at least once a week.

* Members are requested to inform us when they are settled, so that publication of their details can be discontinued.

**Royal Christian Family
Helps In Choosing
The Right Life-Partner
Serving Since 40 Years**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Telephone no. of candidate will be printed only with the consent of members.

For Tel. Nos. Please contact:

+91- 9820473103 / 9820485389 or

Email : royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

**Nearly a Crore Farmers are Agitating at the Border Of Delhi.
Five Rounds Of Talks Have Been Done and Yet No Agreement Reaches!
Who Will Save The Nation From Privatisation of The Government?**

Kejriwal Versus Modi In 2024

In the last issue Mr. Marshall Sequeira wrote a very appropriate article, "Congress is groping in the dark!" The question before the Indian Christian citizen is how long to wait for the Congress to come out of the slumber? The grand old party of India which has seen many upheavals in its long and cherished history. Now it is going through one of its worst crisis on two fronts - the deterioration in its electoral performance across India and secondly almost two dozen very senior Congressmen have literally revolted against the leadership. They are not openly attacking the Gandhi family, yet their utterances and actions seem to suggest a revolt. Kapil Sibal, openly questioned the party's silence on the fiasco in Bihar elections. Another veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad exploded on the '5 Star culture' prevailing in the organization. As a result today the Congress is neither a regional party nor a national party in the real sense. Mr. Marshall draws a conclusion, "It is being treated as a pariah even by smaller parties and distancing themselves from it!" Rahul Gandhi has made it clear that he does not want to lead the party; Hence there is a deadlock. The Christians should break their traditional loyalty to the Congress and think out of the box!

AM ADMI PARTY

The AAP is an independent political faction that gained traction through campaigns against corruption in Indian politics and is headed by an activist Arvind Kejriwal. AAP has won the majority for two terms in Delhi. It has given free electricity, water and mohalla clinics and excellent educational facilities. All these 'goodies' are given

2. In December 2015, the AAP Sarkar under the direction of Dep. CM Mr. Sisodia asked all private schools to make their own criteria for making the admission process transparent by uploading the criteria on the school website. In a follow-up move in early 2016, the AAP Government scrapped all admission quotas from private schools except for children belonging to extremely weak socioeconomic backgrounds. In 2016, the AAP Government launched a campaign to focus on the reading ability of students after it found out that 3.5 lakh students in class 6–8 could not read. The Government also formed a panel to investigate

the finances of schools in Delhi. The panel scrutinised a total of 1,108 private unaided schools, and identified some as having overcharged parents on the pretext of implementing recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission. The Government ordered these schools to return the excess fee back to the parents, failing which it threatened to take over the institutions. In October 2017, the AAP government announced that it will inaugurate over 5,000 new classrooms in more than 100 Delhi government schools. The AAP government has allocated the highest share of the Delhi state budget towards educa-



**Fr. Michael G.
Vasai**

not as public charities but through the taxes collected from the citizens but managed totally without corruption! I present before you only a few bold decisions taken by AAP in the past seven years of their rule in Delhi.

1. AAP's passion for anti-corrupt governance has installed a helpline number, to which people can call for guidance on carrying out a sting operation against officials demanding bribes. Several officials have been nabbed thus. Heavy traffic to the helpline has led the government to open multiple lines, indicating both its popularity and the scale of venality.



(Contd.. from p. 22)

tion for the last five years in a row. Today government schools have become the first choice of parents setting aside the Private International schools of repute!

3. The AAP government has set up nearly 1,000 Mohalla Clinics by the end of 2017 to provide consultation, medicines and tests free of cost to patients. In February 2017, 110 such clinics were functional and had treated over 8 lakh patients in five months.

AN INSIGNIFICANT MAN

It is a mystery why the Party should be appreciated all over the world but not in India! In fact the party is Christian in values; but Christians are branding it as a B team of the BJP! Is it because we Indians cannot in the possibility of an incorrupt governance, govern without allowing "Khaavo our khano do"? **An Insignificant Man** is a 2017 Hindi/English Indian socio-political documentary about the rise of anti-corruption protests in India and the formation and rise to power of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The film received a standing ovation at its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and has gone on to have sold out screenings at major festival across the world including the BFI London Film Festival & Busan International Film Festival. The Mohalla clinic program was commended by the former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan and former Prime Minister of Norway and Director-General of the World Health Organization Gro Harlem Brundtland as an excellent strategy to building a universal health care system.

The party has made considerable progress in a short space of time. It is already the main opposition party in Punjab. Kejriwal is slowly winning the trust of the people in many other states. How I wish that the millions of well-wishers of the Congress party, who stand disillusioned today because of its lack of effective leadership to take on the mighty BJP accept Kejriwal as PM of the nation? How I wish all opposition party leaders think like CPM leader Bhattacharya Dipankar, who said on Wednesday in Patna that the Left front led by the CPI(M) must treat the BJP as "enemy number 1". Following the CPI (ML-Liberation) all parties should initiate dialogues with all democratic forces at all the levels in India to check the upsurge of the BJP that has been annihilating what India stands for. He can prove his mettle and fulfil the urgent need of the nation today. It is time the Gandhis and Vadras to put the nation ahead of the family and claim the AAP as a saviour of democracy in India!

KEJRIWAL VERSUS MODI IN 2024

"Politics of work" is the narrative that the AAP is trying to set on national scale. His second-in-command both in the Delhi government and the AAP, Manish Sisodia has said, "*Kejriwal's work is a model of development. It has proved that patriotism means good education for your children and work done for the welfare of people.*" Maharashtra government has sent a panel to study the development on the pattern of the Delhi government. Responding to AAP victory in Delhi, RSS-BJP leader, Ram Madhav said, "*In states, it also comes to who is the leader who can deliver. Probably people are thinking along these lines. Perhaps one of the messages from this (Delhi) election is that.*" Clearly, Ram Madhav said people believe Kejriwal delivers. This can be taken as an endorsement from the Modi government. In another interesting development, Union minister Prakash Javadekar has written to all his cabinet colleagues asking them to design a campaign to highlight the welfare work done by their respective ministries. The theme of the campaign is "*Har Kaam Desh Ke Naam*" Every action/work for the nation!

Does this really set a stage for Kejriwal versus Modi in 2024?

INQUILAB ZINDABAD!

Ad. Rates for Thanksgiving

	Colour	B/W
Favours granted minimum	Rs. 800	Rs. 500
i.e. 15 words + 1 block(1 photo of saint) each additional block	Rs. 400	Rs. 300
Holy Spirit Prayer	Rs. 1000	Rs. 700
Other small prayers (upto 100 words)	Rs. 1000	Rs. 700

Contact: Tel.: +91 - 9820485389, 9820473103

THE SECULAR CITIZEN,
99, Perin Nariman Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400001

Prayer to St. Expedite for solving a financial crisis



I call forth the Power and the presence of **St. Expedite** in my time of financial trouble. I offer my body, heart, mind and soul upon your altar of light. I have faith and trust and complete confidence that you will be my strength in this time of need. Quickly come to my assistance.
(State Your Petition) _____

My financial need is urgent. Be my

Light and Guide in this situation so that I may live with peace, love, prosperity and abundance and in the Praise of God.

Amen. (Promise Publication)

—T. M. C., Bandra

Good Proposals

**Wide Choices of Christian
Brides and Grooms Available**

Many are happily married

Our exclusive concentration on Christian Match-making with our wide experience brings in regular information on Prospective Brides and Grooms.

Long list of Profiles of prospective Brides and Grooms are available from India and world-over.

Further new entries are provided through the weekly periodical: The Secular Citizen and Email.

**We cater to Christians of all Denomination.
Catholics, Protestants and others
Christians all over India and Indians abroad.**



For registration log on to:

<https://www.royalchristianfamily.com>

ROYAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY

99, Perin Nariman (Bazargate) Street, 1st Floor,
Nr. CST & GPO, Opp. Monginis Cake shop,
Above Dr. Kothari Clinic, Fort, Mumbai 400001.
Tel.: +91 - 9820485389 / 9820473103

Email: royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.royalchristianfamily.com>

Serving the community since 40 years

