

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

## WANTED: Immediate Justice in the Bhima-Koregaon Conspiracy

*-\*Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ*

It was the virtual 'midnight knock'! The irony was that the knock took place in broad daylight, and expectedly in a blatantly unjust, uncivilised and unconstitutional manner. On 6 June 2018, **Sudhir Dhawale, Surendra Gadling, Mahesh Raut, Shoma Sen and Rona Wilson** were arrested from their residences in various parts of the country. The arrests of others then continued in a phased manner: on 28 August 2018, **Arun Ferreira, Sudha Bharadwaj, Varavara Rao and Vernon Gonsalves**; on 14 April 2020, **Anand Teltumbde and Gautam Navlakha**; on 28 July 2020, **Hanybabu Tarayil**; on 10 September 2020, **Sagar Gorkhe, Ramesh Gaichor** and (the next day) **Jyoti Jagtap** – all three from the Kabir Kala Manch were arrested from Pune; finally on 8 October 2020, **Fr Stan Swamy** was arrested from Ranchi.

It is three years now since the first arrests in the Bhima-Koregaon conspiracy case were made. Today, sixteen (referred to as the BK-16) of the country's committed citizens continue to languish in jail, with bail being denied to them and with absolutely no signs of any trial beginning. They are no ordinary men and women; they are trade unionists, human rights activists, academics, lawyers, intellectuals and artists. Their crime? To take sides with the poor and the marginalised, to be a voice for the voiceless, to fight for the rights of the Adivasis and Dalits, the women and children, the workers and farmers. They have fought battles in courts; helped organise people to fight for their legitimate rights; consistently exposed the nexus between the politicians and their powerfully rich friends and above all been working for a society which is more just, equitable, free, fraternal and humane. In doing so they have also raised the hackles of the BJP, RSS and their ilk, who obviously have not taken things lightly.

The arrests were preceded by interrogations and investigations; then came the raids! During the raids, the police seized their laptops, mobile phones, pen

drives, CDs, documents and apparently whatever they could lay their hands upon (the tragedy was when they seized Fr Stan's personal belongings – which consisted of practically nothing! With media posting those photos – the joke actually was on the fascist clowns!). All sixteen of them have been charged under provisions of anti-terror law Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and IPC sections 153 A (promoting enmity between groups), 505 (1)(b) (with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public), 117 (abetting commission of offence by the public or by more than 10 persons). They have also been charged under Sections 13 (unlawful activities), 16 (terrorist act), 18 (conspiracy), 18B (recruiting of any person or persons for terrorist act) 20 (being a member of a terrorist gang or organization) and 39 (offence relating to support given to terrorist organisation) of the UAPA. All fabricated charges – without the slightest shred of evidence! Besides, fairly recently the US-based digital forensic analyst in a report has provided significant information of how so-called 'electronic evidence' was planted in the computer of Rona Wilson one of the sixteen!

All these arrests apparently have their 'roots' in a mass rally of Dalits, who assemble every year on 1 January in Bhima Koregaon, a small village about 30 km north-east of Pune; the massive rally, which brings together lakhs of Dalits from all over the country, commemorates the historic victory of lower-caste Mahar soldiers in the British army over the Brahmin Peshwale Maratha Empire in 1818; and 2018 marked the 200th anniversary of the Bhima Koregaon battle.

In the run-up to the rally, a coalition of 260 non-profit organisations held on 31 December 2017, an event called 'Elgar Parishad' at Pune's Shaniwar Wada. This was the seat of the Peshwai, the Brahmin rulers of the Maratha Empire who rigidly enforced caste discrimination. The Elgar Parishad featured several well-known personalities like politicians Prakash Ambedkar and

(Contd.. on p. 3)

# Mercy In The Church's 'Ordinary Time'

**Jesus longs for us to move beyond the idea of sacrifice—what we feel obligated to give up in order to be perceived as practising Christians. He would much rather have our hearts involved in every act of mercy on our part, our lives entangled with the lives of others, whereby the word sacrifice is itself replaced with 'compassion', the compassion of Jesus as our yardstick of love!**

The call of the Church's Liturgical Seasons of **Advent** and **Lent** is for a change of heart, the former in preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and at end-time, the latter in preparation for celebrating the Easter Mysteries. Essentially, the *change-of-heart* theme being as old as Biblical history so to say, we hear Yahweh telling Israel: "I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezek 36:26) even as the Psalmist [51:10] pleads, "A pure heart create for me, O God, and put a steadfast spirit within me". And what does purity of heart and newness of spirit symbolize in the life of a believer but passion for sharing the **mercy** experienced during Advent and Lent with those in need of much that makes life worth living, mercy, straddling effectively so to say Ordinary Time from post-Pentecost to Christ the King and then again post-Christmas up to Shrove Tuesday, topping the list.

**Gospel mercy running deep** – In Matthew 9:13a, Jesus, quoting Hosea (6:6a) [who, centuries earlier, had condemned the Jews for offering prescribed animal sacrifices in justifica-

tion of idolatry and the oppression of the poor] admonished the Pharisees thus: "Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice'" (Mt 9:13a). But of course, mercy backed by sacrifice is the ultimate Christian ideal, the truism of which was evident during the pandemic that has been ruling our lives with impunity for well-nigh over a year, individuals and institutions alike going out of their way to help alleviate the sufferings of the less fortunate in one way or another.



by Ladislaus  
Louis D'Souza

**When God says "I will give you a new heart," He does so with the addendum "I will put a new spirit within you"!** A heart without the Maker's spirit is precisely "the heart of stone" that He purports to remove from our body and replace with "a heart of flesh" (cfr Ezek 36:26). The profundity of this assertion is tremendous in that it brings home to our minds the "meaning" of mercy, love and sacrifice, Jesus Himself candidly declaring, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7). This highlights the significance of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart annually celebrated on the Friday following *Corpus Christi*.

**Historicity** - Devotion to the Heart of Jesus, encompassing as it does his long-suffering love and compassion towards humankind, is ancient. However, the popularization of this devotion in its modern avatar with its roots in the various facets of Middle Age Catholic mysticism [in the mould of Saint Gertrude the Great] unmistakably derives from two holy women: **Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque**, a 17th century French Visitation nun who is said to have learned the devotion from Jesus himself during a series of apparitions between 1673 and 1675, later reinforced in the 19th century by the mystical revelations of **Blessed Mary of the Divine Heart**,

a German noblewoman and Good Shepherd nun in Portugal, who influenced Pope Leo XIII in Jesus' name to consecrate the entire world to His heart. Pope Saint John Paul II, an ardent devotee of the Sacred Heart, avers that "this feast reminds us of the mystery of the love of God for the people of all times."

**"Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God" (Mt 5:8)** – Theoretically, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, which was established by Pope Pius IX in 1886, is all about love—a love that allowed the purity of God's only-begotten Son to be humiliated at a mock trial preceding a grotesque form of undeserved Capital punishment, *crucifixion*. All this for *our sake* - as Jesus Himself asserted: "Greater love has no one than this - to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:13), the most significant aspect being that Jesus, treating us as His friends, makes us children of the Heavenly Father through His death on the cross. The blood and water of healing gently flowing from his pierced side fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy (53:5d), "By his wounds we are healed" – **a heart-action of mercy on the part of Jesus crucified that cannot but challenge us to have our stony hearts replaced with hearts of flesh embodying God's Spirit! The 'Ordinary Time' of the Church's year will then begin to appear not as ordinary but as an extraordinary period of humanization for our psyches long burdened with heartlessness.** And so we could well make the simple, honest-to-goodness words of Eddie Espinosa's 1982 hymn CHANGE MY HEART O LORD, our own today, in the process experiencing the beating of a new heart in our beings as we sing:

**Change my heart oh God  
Make it ever true!  
Change my heart oh God  
May I be like You!**

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Jignesh Mewani and Dalit rights activist Radhika Vemula.

The Marathas and some of the upper castes resented the Dalit gathering and apparently Hindutva leaders like Milind Ekbote, head of the Hindu Ekta Manch, and Sambhaji Bhide, chief of the Shiv Pratishthan Hindustan made provocative, anti-Dalit speeches a few days before the event. Large-scale violence broke out in some parts of Maharashtra on 1 and 2 January 2018. On 3 January, police filed cases against Ekbote and Bhide, for allegedly instigating the violence on Dalits. However, while Ekbote was released on bail soon after being arrested in March, Bhide has not yet been arrested, despite a Supreme Court order demanding his arrest. Bhide is close to several of the RSS leaders including PM Modi.



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH

SJ

violence' and this was followed by the arrest of eleven others till Fr Stan's arrest on 8 October 2020 (most of these latter are not connected with the Elgar Parishad or for that matter with Bhima-Koregaon). These past three years, there is national and even international outrage at this unconstitutional and repressive act by the Government and their henchmen from the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) Civil society from across the board, including intellectuals, academics have these past three years written statements, signed petitions, held press conferences and protest rallies in different parts of the country and the world. On 11 June 2021, hundreds of concerned citizens from all walks of life joined family and friends of the BK-16 in a pathbreaking webinar 'Campaign Against State Repression', demanding the immediate release of those incarcerated and the repeal of the UAPA

Writing a powerful op-ed in the Indian Express (10 June 2021) under the title 'When justice is incarcerated', well-known human rights worker and author Harsh Mander says, "three years later, the trial against them has still not commenced. The state has succeeded in misusing the law — with

the complicity of all institutions of criminal justice — to confine behind bars the BK-16 accused, without any opportunity for either bail or to prove their innocence. The flimsy evidence marshalled against the accused rests on some alleged emails, but independent agencies contest that these are malign insertions though malware. The experience of the BK-16 accused reveals the ease with which it is possible for the executive to smear reputations, and imprison indefinitely without bail or trial, people who dissent and organise struggles against state policies. During the pandemic, when governments globally have decongested prisons, the state has been steadfast in its opposition to bail for these pre-trial political prisoners, even after they displayed worrying signs of life-threatening illness."

In his article Mander not only voices the plain truth but also the concerns of millions of Indians and others; he also exposes the brutality and the lack of humanity that is clearly the DNA of a fascist regime that brooks no dissent! Already in 2018, noted historian Ramachandra Guha lashed out at the government over the arrests of activists, calling it a "brutal, authoritarian, oppressive, arbitrary.

(Contd.. on p. 4)

*Illegal act by the Maharashtra police". Mr. Guha categorically stated, "corporate cronies of the ruling government were bent on grabbing tribal land, forest and mineral resources. This is absolutely chilling. This is being done to not only intimidate and silence those detained but also those who could potentially come to their legal rescue. The courts must intervene to stop this persecution and harassment of independent voices. Sudha Bharadwaj is as far from violence and illegality as Amit Shah is close to those things. As a biographer of Gandhi, I have no doubt that if the Mahatma was alive today, he would don his lawyer's robes and defend Bharadwaj in court; that is assuming the Modi Sarkar hadn't yet detained and arrested him too." Going further he said, (those arrested) "are people who represent the country's disenfranchised and the dispossessed. What is happening in the Adivasi heartland of India... it is murder, rape, physical, natural, social... and these were the lawyers representing the tribals... and their arrest leaves those dispossessed unrepresented in court."*

In a letter dated 10 June 2021 and addressed to the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India and others, as many as fifty-seven top international personalities, including Nobel laureates, academics, human rights defenders, lawyers, cultural personalities, and members of Parliament of European countries, have urged them to ensure immediate release of human rights defenders in India "into safe conditions". Signatories to the letter include Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk (Nobel Prize for Literature 2018) and Nigerian writer Wole Soyinka (Nobel Prize for Literature 1986), former president of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention José Antonio Guevara-Bermúdez, and former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

These eminent international personalities, have clearly stated in their letter that the Indian government and authorities should show compassion and responsibility in the current CO-

VID-19 emergency and release them given the spread of the pandemic in Indian prisons. Their constitutional right to live and die in dignity needs to be guaranteed under the present circumstances, given that legal recourse takes a long time and all of the arrested are under pre-trial detention, they add. This appeal follows an initiative of International Solidarity for Academic Freedom in India (Insaf India), a collective of diasporic Indian academics and professionals from around the world, the as well as numerous prominent lawyers and members of parliament from Germany, UK, Spain, Ireland and other countries.

The open letter said, "among the thousands in India arrested for "political offences" is a group known as the *Bhima-Koregaon (BK)-16: four academics, three lawyers, two independent journalists, a union organizer and social activist, a poet, three performing artists, and a Jesuit priest. A majority of them are senior citizens, some of whom have comorbidities that render them particularly vulnerable. All are human rights defenders with a record of writing, speaking and organizing for the rights of workers, minorities, Dalits, and Adivasis through peaceful and constitutional means". Their letter ends unequivocally, "with this letter, we call on the Indian authorities to take urgent and prompt action:*

- *Release the BK-16 from overcrowded and unsafe prisons immediately.*
- *Allow them to be cared for by their kin.*
- *Show compassion and responsibility in order to avoid catastrophic consequences.*
- *Ensure them their constitutional right to live and die in dignity".*

The country is going through dark times: every single democratic institution is being systematically dismantled and even destroyed. Constitutional and other independent authorities, which were well known for their objectivity and impartiality in the past, have now become caged parrots; this is so obvious be it the case of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the NIA and for that matter, even the Election

Commission. Some of those in the judiciary – have brought a pillar of democracy down to the ground with their totally obnoxious, prejudiced and one-sided judgements. The less said about mainstream media the better: they have lost their morality and become a wholly lapdog one. The ruling regime has thrown all propriety to the wind with their brazen corrupt, communal, insensitive anti-national and unconstitutional ways

But thank God for the BK-16: Sudhir Dhawale, Surendra Gadling, Mahesh Raut, Shoma Sen Rona Wilson Arun Ferreira, Sudha Bharadwaj, Varavara Rao and Vernon Gonsalves, Anand Teltumbde, Gautam Navlakha, Hanybabu Tarayil, Sagar Gorkhe, Ramesh Gaichor, Jyoti Jagtap and Fr Stan Swamy. The system that has incarcerated them is brutal, rotten and unjust. They suffer today in jail because they believed in the idea of India, in the Constitution, in the 'we the people', in the rights of the excluded and the exploited. They were voices of democracy and of dissent – and because of that, they are paying the price today.

We all need to be eternally grateful for these heroes, these real freedom fighters of today's India! We who are not yet in prison – are called to be more visible and vocal: to keep the torch which they have given us, burning! The struggle for their immediate freedom, for justice for all and for the complete repeal of the UAPA must continue relentlessly. We cannot be complacent or think that what has happened to the BK-16 does not concern us! Our engagement today may guarantee a more liveable India for future generations. Deep down we know that we will overcome: because JUSTICE and TRUTH always triumph – till then the struggle will continue!

*\*(Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ is a human rights and peace activist/writer. Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com)*



## On mandatory pre-marital counselling

As the age old adage goes “ Marriages are made in heaven , but are broken on earth”. This appears to be true, especially in Goa, where according to the state law minister Nilesch Cabral, the number of divorce cases is on the rise. Hence his recommendation to the Goa govt to make pre-marital counselling mandatory to save marriages. It makes me, as well as several others wonder whether the recommendations by state law minister is driven by a genuine concern to save marriages or to make things more difficult for couples to obtain some more NOCs prior to tying the marital knot. From statistics published it appears that a mountain is being made out of a molehill, given that the divorce rate in Goa is on the decline, down to around 2.5% from the earlier 4.5% a year ago. Secondly, in these days of equality and high degree of personal liberty and freedom, can one be blamed if he/she chooses to get out of an unhappy marriage through divorce, notwithstanding the sacredness of married life. These are personal matters where state interference is uncalled for. Couples intending to get married are mature enough to decide what is best for them in their future married life. For that matter, has the mandatory marriage preparation course for Catholic couples made any difference to the number of annulment cases before the church’s tribunal?

—A. F. Nazareth,  
Alto Porvorim, Goaz

**Thanks to the**

## vaccine I took

A lot of rumours are being forwarded to people on WhatsApp and other social media platforms that the Covid-19 vaccines are unsafe and ineffective.

I advise people not to believe in such rumours. Covid-19 vaccines are entirely safe to take and has no side effects of any kind. I took my first shot of the Covishield vaccine at a municipal hospital in Mumbai and found it completely safe. There were around 500 of us, all aged above 60, but none of us had side effects of any kind; neither did we feel giddy. The hospital was clean and the hospital staff was also co-operative. There was also no discrimination as to what community or religion you belonged to. All of us were treated as one family. Six weeks have passed and I am still hale and hearty. Thanks to the Covishield vaccine I took

— Jubel D'Cruz,  
Mumbai

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## Is Fr. Stan A Terrorist?

Is an 84-year old to be treated as a terrorist? At last, somebody has asked the right question. Kudos to journalist Rajdeep Sardesai, for speaking up for the 84-year old, Fr. Stan Swamy languishing in prison - Ref. A news report in the Herald, 8 June.

It is seemingly apparent that Fr. Stan had no connection with the Bhima-Koregaon case. Rather, it seems Fr. Stan has become a victim of the hate ideology of certain sections of society and so, must be taught a lesson for allegedly inducing conversions. Nothing can be further from the truth. Yes, we live in a world where truth is a casualty. It's time all right thinking literate, intelligent, educated citizens who have passed out of Christians educational institutions and all right thinking citizens speak up for justice. If not now then when? That is the question I would like to pose before all.

Darkness seems to have engulfed light and hate overpowered Love. How long shall we endure this culture of hate in our country? I would like to reproduce a poem by Fr. Stan below, which is quite appropriate:

**Light overpowering darkness,  
hope replacing despair,**

**Love winning over hate is the  
message of Jesus Risen.**

**But fight we will till the end not  
so much to save our skin, but  
to speak the truth to power.**

**Counting all the while you are  
with us, In mind and in heart.  
Amen.**

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

# 123 years of devotion to St Anthony @ M'luru - June 2021

**-Ivan Saldanha-Shet.**

In India the devotion to St. Anthony of Padua is said to be most popular and timeless. On June 12, 1898, Saint Anthony's in Mangaluru, a home for the homeless and care for the needy, the fruit of a simple devotion came to be at Milagres Church in Hampankatta. Now, 123 years on, in these times of Corona Pandemic the devotion is ever deep. The peak of the celebrations June 10 to 13 were solemn and supplicating strictly within the norms prescribed with thousands participating on-line world over.

The Shrine completed 123 years on June 12, 2021, the Ashram located at Jeppu opposite the seminary is now the focal point of devotion and activities. In the last few years apart from the shelter for the destitute and the recently added advanced center for the care of mentally challenged, progressive activities are developed. The hostel for needy youth pursuing multi pronged advanced education in city colleges is a boon in this Pandemic/lockdown scenario. There is a virtual eco-friendly green environment developed all around which also contributes to the various needs of the residents/inmates. As part of historic and cultural conservation a super faceted Museum is developed with religious and cultural displays to inspire all who set eyes on the vast collection donated by many. An exclusive section showcasing the life and works of St. Anthony is a big attraction and awareness for all.

St Anthony's Ashram Jeppu : It was on June 12, 1898 Msgr. Michael Placid Colaco the then Asst Parish Priest of Milagres Church started Novena prayers to Saint Anthony.

On the following day was the feast of Saint Anthony. A large number of people from around Mangalore gathered for the feast. Since then on every Tuesday Novena has been held in honour of Saint Anthony at the Shrine Altar at Milagres Church. People irrespective of caste and creed come to Saint Anthony in their need and



never go away empty handed. That is the strong belief of Saint Anthony's devotees. The Saint is specially invoked when anything is lost. It is believed that when things are lost and if Saint Anthony's help is sought the lost things are found. It has been testified in a number of cases by the devotees. As the people received favours from the Saint the people in gratitude of-

ferred their mite in kind and cash. It was in turn distributed to the needy. Gradually houses were put up to house the destitute. In 1930 the land was purchased in a court auction in which the present Ashram is situated at Jeppu. After purchasing the land houses were built and the inmates were moved to the present location in 1936. The Institutes also fed hundreds of hungry people every day during World Wars when there was extreme poverty and people didn't have enough food to eat. Rice was brought from Rangoon (Burma). At present there are over 400 destitute are sheltered at the Ashram. All their needs are taken care of free of cost. Futuristic projects are now in progress here. Presently, Fr Onil D'Souza, is the director of the Institutes and has a dedicated support force to move matters forward with many modern plans.

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# Monsoon Mayhem In Mumbai

## Monsoon Preparedness Took A Beating

The southwest monsoon set in over several parts of Maharashtra, including Mumbai, today, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, with the financial capital experiencing waterlogging, disruption in local train services and heavy rains. The weather department has predicted cloudy sky with moderate rain/thundershowers in the financial capital and suburbs. There is a possibility of heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places. Entire stretch of Breach Candy has been waterlogged and the footpath too has been submerged. Rainfall also caused low visibility on eastern freeway. As in the past Gandhi Market in Sion, Matunga Station, Sion Highway is submerged in water. Malad Subway is closed due to waterlogging; IMD predicts heavy to very heavy rainfall in Mumbai. The monsoon arrived in Mumbai on the dot as per IMD announcement with heavy rains lashed the country's financial capital and suburbs since early morning. Water-logging was reported in some low-lying areas, but the local train services remained affected, while routes of some BEST buses running the city civic body's transport wing were diverted. A high tide worsened the situation. It's monsoon arrival in Mumbai. This year it all started like 26/7/2005 rains and threaten to inundate low lying areas for the next four days.

Monsoon rains means Maharashtra has to suffer. What needs to be done before monsoon. This should be resolved once and for all. Roads filled with water, people die as the potholes are opened. In India people die from collapse of poor buildings, fire in factories. Safety norms and rules are only on the paper. Such news is so common we are accepting them as normal. If the city is back to normal, we appreciate their spirits. Eleven people died and seven were injured after a residential structure collapsed on a building near-by following heavy monsoon rains in

Mumbai. Heavy rain affects life in Mumbai. Met Department announces onset of southwest monsoon in Maharashtra but monsoon preparedness touched a new low. Day one of Mumbai rains unlocks the same old woes and the center meridian chain is formed to save people stranded in the city's focal points. In the name of development, the city expansion has taken place and gone out of control and the people suffer forever in the monsoon rains.

The beauty of the City and its people are their resilience in fighting back and putting it on track as if nothing has happened. Certainly, this Island City has the blessings of Lord Ganesha and escaped from the deluge of 26/7/2005 and somehow applied caution and the Government made an announcement to stay at place of work rather than venturing out. Better council prevailed and the loss of life was reduced in the monsoon mayhem. In all monsoon rains in Mumbai caused the real threat despite all the remedial measures. BMC failed in their effort in rain readiness but made up for the loss with timely measures to remove water from the low lying areas and the Police department lent a helping hand to make things move in a proper direction in the monsoon melee. However, the blame game continued as a number of people were caught unaware.

Mumbai, the commercial capital came to standstill after heavy rains hit the city, combined with speedy winds caused a mess in the metro city. The trains were off the track due to water logging, buses were moving slow due to traffic jams at all focal points, taxis were off the road and the people were running to get public transport to get back home. But rains intensified, inundating



low lying areas and the people were stranded for hours in railway stations and struck in bus stands. *BMC ka barosa* has gone to the wins as a number of trees fell on the roads and the highways were full of potholes and craters to stop free flow of traffic. The city has become just like a deluge. Mumbaiers were reminded of the 25-7-2005 deluge. Due to regular

use of plastic bags, the drainage system was clogged and there was no free flow of water,

Mumbai continues to reel under persistent monsoon rains and the problems go unabated as more and more rain related issues continue to haunt the city. After potholes menace the city is reeling under tree falls and building collapses causing ripples in the minds of people. As the roads are filled with rain water, filling potholes is becoming a matter of difficult proposition under the present circumstances. Again old and dilapidated buildings are coming down in a heap, causing fear among the citizens. There is no end solution as BMC is passing blame and trying for an escape route for all the problems.

Public is paying tax and expect better conditions of the road during the four months of monsoon season and thereafter also. Instead of making a quick move to repair the damages BMC is buying time. We still have *bharosa* on BMC and nothing is lost even now if the Municipal Corporation take remedial measures and cajole and console people. The performance of both state government and BMC is well below par and it is time to take it up on BMC in bringing changes in the method of filling potholes and craters and see that the trees are pruned up well in advance to avoid further disaster on the roads.

Water logging on roads creates a mess and there is a need for proper planning to face monsoon rains.



C.K. Subramaniam

Parul Khakkar for her poem 'Shava-vahini Ganga' Criticizing The Government Responsible For Millions Of Deaths Due To its Lack Of Proper Handling Of Corona 2nd Wave is termed as a Naxalite! All freedom lover writers should protest-

## RAJE, TUMHARE RAMRAJYAMEIN- AAPNE GANGA MATA KARDI SHAV-VAHINI!

The BJP is busy bringing about *Hindu Rashtra* with the experience of *Ram-rajya* in the country. But in fact in seven years of their rule, Ganga-mata the *Jiva-dayini* (life-giving) river has become a *Shava-vahini* (hearse) with corpses floating! The top Gujarati Poet Parul Khakkar poured out her distress in a powerful 14-line poem 'Shav-vahini Ganga'. She is praised by writers and people at large for voicing the nation's suffering. The poem was promptly translated into at more than six languages, becoming the voice of all Indians who are saddened by the tragedies wrought by the pandemic and angered by the government's aloofness and mismanagement of the situation. Leading the list of those full of praise for the poem is Manishi Jani, who had been president of the Navnirman Andolan which, in 1973-74 had managed to oust Chimanbhai Patel, the then chief minister of Gujarat, on charges of corruption. The Navnirman Andolan had been praised by freedom fighter and political leader Jayaprakash Narayan for its originality, raw energy and creativity. Once hailed as "the next big icon of Gujarati poetry" by right-leaning litterateurs in Gujarat, has become the worst target of the BJP IT cell!

### Helplessness, Poverty And Mismanagement expressed

The IT cell has sprung into action, attacking Khakkar with its usual barrage of abuse and misogyny. Her powerful poem is written on the sufferings of Indians as the Union government grossly mismanaged the second wave of the pandemic.

The poet of truths has written the poem in Gujarati, the very mother tongue of Shri Narendra Modi in the state where 'Ram Rajya' first began two decades ago! Many High Courts

in the country have criticised the Central Government. The Aurangabad



bench of the Bombay High Court on Friday slammed the Centre for its "insensitive" approach over the issue of supply of more than 100 dysfunctional ventilators to hospitals! One High Court said that the government should not wait for the virus to attack but attack the virus with airstrikes! For the mismanagement of lockdown, hospitals, and vaccines, Modi is rightly described as the 'naked king' in the poem. Khakkar's poem speaks truth to power, describing a regime where the king's aloofness to the citizens of his country is glaring truth. There is helplessness, poverty and mismanagement all around, the poem hits out not only at



Fr. Michael G. Vasai

the government, but also at the mainstream media, the opposition political parties and others as they choose to remain silent and spineless under the reign of the 'naked king'. These are called 'lifeless corpses' for shouting "all goes well with Modi"! " एक साथ सब मुर्दे बोले 'सब कुछ चंगा-चंगा'!

### Not A Naxalite, But A Housewife!

Modi's home state Gujarat is a COVID-19 hotspot today. It was also the first state in the country to vote the BJP into power. Narendra Modi who is being internationally berated for his poor handling of the coronavirus situation. But Khakkar's intention in writing this poem was not at all political. She had simply been deeply moved by images in the media of the bodies of COVID-19 victims, hundreds of them, in the Ganga, India's most

sacred and culture-defining river. The poem expresses a spontaneous explosion Of shock and sadness of a house maker! A distant relative of Khakkar told The Wire that Parul Khakkar sees herself as a part-time poet and full-time homemaker. Her best writing moments arrive when she is cleaning her house or rolling out chapatis. "I am spiritual and religious. I consider myself God's best child," says Khakkar in the introduction to her blog. Its pity that before this poem was written, Khakkar was very much in the good books of right-leaning litterateurs in the intensely polarised state of Gujarat. Vishnu Pandya, a political historian associated with Gujarati mouthpiece, Sadhna, a Padma Shri after Modi became the prime minister, had described Khakkar as "the next big icon of Gujarati poetry". The same Vishnu Pandya (Gujarati Sahitya Academy) accuses her of being a naxalite!

### The Aggressive BJP IT cell

BJP's troll army attacked her with words such as 'anti-national', 'immature' and 'anti-Hindu' and described her as 'a woman with loose character and no moral values'. There have been more than 28,000 abusive and misogynistic comments on Khakkar's social media accounts and the accounts of the more than one lakh people who shared her poem. All have seemingly been posted by the BJP's IT cell, which is notorious for aggressively stalking people who are not necessarily political, but sometimes come out as anti-government. This has led Khakkar to change her public accounts on Facebook and Instagram to personal locked accounts. BJP's trolling of the apolitical poet was absolutely tasteless and further exposed the party's aloofness from the situation on the ground. The words "Billa Ranga" and "naked king" used in the

(Contd.. on p. 9)

poem were the main reason that she is being attacked.

According to her friends (*Reported by The Wire*) Gujarat is not a safe place to voice any type of dissent. Yet the *Gujarati Lekhak Mandal* (writers' forum), consisting of more than one thousand writers and poets of Gujarat, has spoken out in support of the poet. Manishi Jani, president of the Mandal and former president of the Navnirman Andolan, issued a communiqué to the forum on May 13 that subtly referred to the BJP IT cell trolls, and further said, "The Lekhak Mandal criticises this and the efforts of a lobby to curtail the creator's freedom of expression."

### My Adaptation.

Many English translations are available. I found them too poetic to express the real punch today. Hence I have made my own adaptation. Here it is:

1. The corpses spoke in one voice : "All is well, *achchhe din aaye hai; sab kuchh changa-changa!*"

But Raje, in your *Ram Rajya* you have turned the very *Ganga Mata* into a longest hearse.

Why, you ask? Raje, your crematoriums are too full; scare is the wood for pyres!

Corpses are too many, Raje, our pall-bearers are not enough, no mourners available!

In every home *Yama* performs a deadly dance *macabre!*

2. The corpses spoke in one voice : "All is well, *achchhe din aaye hai, sab kuchh changa-changa!*"

But Raje, in your *Ram Rajya* you have turned the very *Ganga Mata* into the longest hearse!

Raje, the smoke belching crematorium chimneys are tired and seek respite!

Bangles are shattered in every home, shattered are our hearts!

And you "*Wah, Billa-Ranga*", play the fiddle while the towns are ablaze!

3. The corpses spoke in one voice : "All is well, *achchhe din aaye hai, sab kuchh changa-changa!*"

But Raje, in your *Ram Rajya* you have turned the very *Ganga Mata* into the longest hearse!

Raje, your clothes are divine, radiant is your face.

But Raje, the genuine people see you in your true form, a stone not a gem!

If there is a courageous man here, he will come forward and say,

'मेरा साहेब नंगा' "The emperor has no clothes!"

હોય મરદ તે આવી બોલો 'રાજા મેરા નંગા'  
રાજ, તમારા રામરાજ્યમાં શબવાહિની ગંગા.

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**28 years Mangalorean spinster C.A., Ht. 5'6" Wt. 49 kg Fair., Beautiful. well cultured. Affluent society. Belongs to established business family in Maharashtra (REF:MM105)**

**28 year Mumbai based Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Profession : a Banker (REF:MM109)**

**Vasai based affluent business family R.C. East Indian Spinster, 33, years Ht. 5' 2", very beautiful and pretty. MS General Surgeon, Doctor by profession. (REF:106)**

**Mumbai based now in Dubai Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, 33 years, Ht. 5' 7", Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS, profession: a Senior Merchandiser (REF:107)**

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# Are We Sufficiently Responsible Towards the Earth?

by Don Aguiar.

**O**n World Environment Day, 5th June, 2021, the Bishop in charge of Social Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Bombay impressed on the Pope's encyclical *Laudato Si'* an important tool for motivating Catholics, as well as for those of other religious faiths to look at Mother Earth in a serious way, to have the courage to address systemic issues, to help restore and renew all that is precious to us. It points out that without prompt global action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and slow the planet's warming, there will be profound environmental, social, political and economic consequences. Jewish and Muslim leaders have recently made similar statements about climate change, and these all acknowledge the scientific consensus as compiled by the very secular Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The Pope clearly identifies the use of fossil fuels, noise, crude oil spillage, destruction of coral reefs, deforestation..... as cause of climate change.

It has been a couple of years since this encyclical has been widely circulated and impressed upon, but the programs carried out to arrest climate change howsoever imaginative are not prone to yield wanted outcomes as we unfortunately are living in an era of global ecological breakdown where industrialisation and globalisation have led to mindless commodification of nature and the deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water and soil; the destruction of ecosystems; habitat destruction; the extinction of wildlife; and pollution. ... It comes in many types. It is a series of actions through which we weaken or harm the natural environment, reduce its biological diversity and encroach on the general health of the natural infra-

structure.

Though environment can be degraded naturally, anthropogenic impacts (**environmental pollution and pollutants originating in human activity**) on the environment fast-track its degradation. This compels us to declare a new geological epoch – the Anthropocene, (**or the current geological age, viewed as the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment**) since the consumption of natural assets like air, water and soil reaches the level where the environment stands irreparably compromised, faces its deterioration and defines the irreversible disintegration of the earth.

**The unbearable burden of human population, an excessive desire or obsession for return on invested capital, emphasis on numerical value of per capita growth, tendency to transform natural world into technological world, living to compete with sheep tendency irresolutely and even incoherently, and picking out self-centeredness over the righteousness of natural cause will degrade this environment to the point where the principle of intergenerational equity or the idea of fairness or justice between generations doesn't hold any meaning.**

The distinctive nature of the present environmental problems is that they are caused more by environmental pollution and pollutants originating in human activity than natural phenomena. **Mindless consumerism and economic growth have started to demonstrate a very harmful or evil effects on Mother Nature. In spite of this, the pace and desire for economic development have never ceased. It is economics that has dictated environmental policy.**

**The primary causes** of environmental degradation in India are attributed to the rapid growth of population in combination with economic development and overuse of natural resources and is happening through the destruction of environments and the eradication of wildlife, air pollution, water pollution, garbage, and pollution of the natural environment are all challenges for India. India has a long way to go to reach **environmental quality similar to those enjoyed in developed economies. Pollution remains a major challenge and opportunity for India.** Environmental degradation is one of the primary causes of diseases, health issues and long term livelihood impact for India. Air, water and noise pollution together with water scarcity dominate the environmental issues in India, due to land degradation, deforestation, soil erosion, habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity. Economic growth and changing consumption patterns have led to a rising demand for energy and increasing transport activities.

**The major causes** of the environmental degradation are modern urbanization, industrialization, overpopulation growth, deforestation etc. Environmental pollution refers to the degradation of quality and quantity of natural resources. Various types of the human exercises are the fundamental reasons of environmental degradation. These have prompted condition changes that have turned out to be hurtful to every single living being. The smoke radiated by the vehicles and processing plants expands the measure of toxic gases noticeable all around. The waste items, smoke radiated by vehicles and ventures are the fundamental driver of contamination. Spontaneous urbanization and industrialization have caused water, air and

(Contd.. on p. 11)

sound contamination. Urbanization and industrialization help to expand contamination of the wellsprings of water. So also, the smoke discharged by vehicles and ventures like Chloro-fluorocarbon, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and other particles dirty the air.

The rapid population growth and economic development in the country are degrading the environment through the uncontrolled growth of urbanization and industrialization, expansion and intensification of agriculture and the destruction of natural habitats. **One of the significant reasons for environmental degradation in India could be ascribed to quick development of population which is antagonistically influencing the natural resources and condition.**

**Population** is an important source of development, yet it is a major source of environmental degradation when it exceeds the threshold limits of the support systems. **Unless the connection between the multiplying population and the existence emotionally supportive network can be settled, improvement programs, howsoever, imaginative are not prone to yield wanted outcomes.** Population impacts on the environment primarily through the use of natural resources and production of wastes and is associated with environmental stresses like loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution and increased pressure on arable land.

**Poverty** is said to be both cause and effect of environmental degradation. The round connection amongst poverty and environment is to a great degree a complex marvel. Imbalance may cultivate unsustainability in light of the fact that **poor people, who depend on normal assets more than the rich, drain characteristic assets quicker as they have no genuine prospects of accessing different kinds of assets.** As the 21st century starts, developing number of individu-

als and rising levels of utilization per capita are draining regular assets and corrupting the earth. **The poverty-environmental damage nexus in India must be seen in the context of population growth as well.** The pressures on the environment intensify every day as the population grows. The fast increment of human numbers joins with urgent poverty and rising levels of utilization are draining natural resources on which the vocation of present and future ages depends. **Poverty is amongst the consequences of population growth and its life style play major role in depleting the environment either its fuel demands for cooking or for earning livelihood for their survival.** Moreover, degraded environment can accelerate the process of impoverishment, again because the poor depend directly on natural assets.

**Biodiversity** is important for maintaining balance of the ecosystem in the form of combating pollution, restoring nutrients, protecting water sources and stabilizing climate. The main cause of loss of biodiversity are

deforestation, global warming, overpopulation and pollution are few of the major causes for loss of biodiversity. **In fact human beings have deeply altered the environment, and have modified the territory, exploiting the species directly, for example by fishing and hunting, changing the biogeochemical cycles and transferring species from one area to another.**

From resource depletion to pollution overload, the planet is struggling against unprecedented assaults and negates the climate change programs done by a few. In the wake of all these phenomena, it is high time to introspect and question ourselves: **Are we sufficiently responsible towards the Earth? Or do we expect only the Earth to take care of us? In what way can we be able to reset our relationship with nature?**

**Hubert Reeves** a Canadian astrophysicist says - Man is the most insane species. He worships an invisible God and destroys a visible Nature. Unaware that the Nature he is destroying is this God he is worshipping.

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**Name plate outside a civil lawyer's house:**

.  
Where there is will, there is property;  
Where there is property, there is dispute;  
Where there is dispute, there is litigation;  
Where there is litigation, there is lawyer.

.  
And the lawyer is here. Just walk in.

\*\*\*\*\*

**You Ask**

After hearing the story of Jonah and the whale at Sunday school, a little girl repeated the story at school on Monday.

Her teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because, even though it is a very large mammal, its throat is very small.

The little girl said, "But how can that be? Jonah was swallowed by a whale".

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human. "It is physically impossible!" she said.

Undaunted, the little girl said, "Well, when I get to heaven I will ask Jonah."

To this, the teacher said, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him!"

-----

**Jesus Saves**

Jesus Christ and Satan were having an ongoing argument about who was better at the computer. They had been going at it for days, and God was tired of hearing all of the bickering. Finally God said, "Cool it. I am going to set up a test that will run two hours and I will judge who does the better job."

So Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away. They moused. They did spreadsheets. They wrote reports. They sent faxes. They sent e-mails. They sent out e-mails with attachments. They downloaded. They did some genealogy reports. They made cards. They did every known job. But ten minutes before their time was up,



lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, rain poured and, of course, the electricity went off.

Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every cuss-word known in the underworld. Jesus just sighed. The electricity finally flickered back on and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started searching frantically, screaming, "It's gone! It's all gone! I lost everything when the power went out!"

Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all of his files from the past two hours. Satan observed this and became irate. "Wait! He cheated, how did He do it?" God shrugged and said, "Jesus saves."

-----

**Remaining cool in every situation**

A pot was once asked, "How do you remain cool in every situation?" The pot answered, "I just remind myself that I am made of mud and will return back to mud. Then why have pride and anger?"

--- Contributed by: Jubel D'Cruz  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Simple Maths**

"2get" and "2give".  
Creates many problems.  
So just double it.  
"4get" and "4give".  
Solves many problems.

--- Jubel D'Cruz  
\*\*\*\*\*

Modi , Queen Elizabeth and Vladimir Putin all died and went to hell.

While there, they saw a red phone and asked what the phone is for.

The devil tells them it is for calling back to Earth.

Putin asks to call Russia and talks for 5 minutes. When he is finished the devil informs him that the cost is a

million dollars, so Putin writes him a cheque.

Next Queen Elizabeth calls England and talks for 30 minutes. When she is finished the devil informs her that the cost is 6 million dollars, so she writes him a check.

Finally Modi gets his turn and talks to Delhi for 4 hours.

When he is finished the devil informs him that the cost is \$1.00.

When Putin hears this he goes ballistic and asks the devil why Modi got to call India so cheaply.

The devil smiles and replies: "Since Modi took over, the country has gone to hell !!!

Within hell, it's a local call."

\*\*\*\*\*

A woman awakens in the middle of the night to find her husband is not in bed. She goes to look for him and finds him sitting at the kitchen table. He appears to be in deep thought, just staring at the wall. She watches as he wipes away a tear from his eye. "What's the matter, dear? Why are you down here at this time of night!?" she whispers.

The husband looks up "It's the 20th anniversary of the day we met." She can't believe he has remembered and starts to tear up. The husband continues, "Do you remember 20 years ago when we started dating? I was 20 and you were only 18," he said.

Once again, the wife is touched to think that her husband is so caring and sensitive. "Yes, I do" she replies. The husband pauses, his words coming out in a rush. "Do you remember your father caught us in the back seat of my car?"

"Yes, I remember" said the wife. The husband continued "Do you remember he shoved a shotgun in my face and said, either you marry my daughter or I will make sure you spend the next 20 years in prison?"

"I remember that, too" she replied softly.

He sighed as he wiped another tear away from his cheek and said, "I would have gotten out of prison today."

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Thanksgiving

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Praised Adored, Glorified and Loved today and everyday throughout the world, now and forever.Amen!!

Ask St. Clare for three favours two impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for 9 days with a lighted candle and publish on the 9th day your request will be granted no matter how impossible it is



—S. D'Souza, *Bandra*

### 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)

—Dorine, *Mahim*

## Thanksgiving



Thanks to Divine Mercy, Our Lady of Vailankani, Our Lady of Perpetual Succor and St. Anthony

—Ms S. D'Sa, *Pune*



## Butterscotch Cream Cake

### Ingredients:

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream

### Method:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Grease a 9x9-inch square pan.

Beat the eggs in a small bowl until very thick. Add the sugar and the vanilla essence, beating well.

Combine the flour, baking powder, and salt. Add the flour mixture in three parts, alternating with the whipping cream, mixing until combined. Pour the batter into the prepared pan.

Bake in preheated oven for 30 to 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the centre comes out clean.



Sweta D'Cruz

## PRAYER & THANKSGIVING

### Prayer To The Holy Spirit (if you are in difficulty, You can say this prayer)



HOLY SPIRIT, You who makes me see everything and shows me the way to reach my ideal. You who gives me the Divine Gift to forgive and forget all that is done to me and you who are in all the instances of my life with me. I in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything, affirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the

material desires of this life may be I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory to the end and submitting to God's Holy will

—Ronald D'Souza

# The Year 2021 – A Year Of Memorable Events

The year 2021 will go down in the annals of Mazzarello Youth Centre, Wadala, as it had several memorable events in a row, namely, the feast of Gratitude, the feast of St. Joseph, the election of the new Provincial, the felicitation of the Silver Jubilarians and the closing of the Septuagennial Anniversary of Auxilium Convent, Wadala.

The feast of Gratitude was celebrated by the states of Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra to express their gratitude to the outgoing Provincial, Sr. Rita Dora Thomas and her team of Councillors. Sr. Rita Dora Thomas was applauded for her animation through conferences, talks, webinars, etc.



together bring out in us deeper love and concern for one another". This was followed by a welcome dance by the Salesian Sisters, a Prayer dance by Anmol and a skit by the novices. The skit depicted that in the task of building bridges, there were various cracks in relationship caused by misunderstanding, pride, jealousy, sadness, etc. but in the nick of time, Sr. Rita Dora Thomas stepped in and helped in building bridges across various waters and different terrains thus connecting everybody and giving each one their space. Sr. Rita Dora Thomas was taken aback with the splendid programme and said, "It was on 13<sup>th</sup> February '2015 that I said Yes to God and accepted the responsibility. I thank God for accompanying us along the smooth paths and rugged roads, I feel humbled at this magnanimous celebration and thank you for everything". Special thanks went out to Sr. Roseline and her team for the lovely programme and to Sr. Lavita Sequeira for the video shooting. All then joined in the Grace before Meals and enjoyed the sumptuous meal.

At the very outset, we had the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Rev. Fr. Edwin D'souza. Sharing some random thoughts on Gratitude, he said, "Gratitude is much more than a feeling, it is an attitude. We can choose to find the positive in people and situations. Gratitude grows as it is expressed. We give people the joy of being appreciated. We need to give thanks to God for all that we have. Life is filled with so many activities pulling us in different directions that we forget to give thanks. St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, Ch.5, V. 18 says 'Be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you in your life in Christ Jesus.' Developing our talents is to give gratitude to God. One way of

expressing gratitude is to avoid comparison. Comparing ourselves to others and using them as a measure is destructive. We must be grateful for our uniqueness, find out our gifts, acknowledge them and use them to serve others. When was the last time we expressed our gratitude to others? Let's accentuate positivity in our lives. After Mass, snacks were served and we moved on to the festive celebration. Welcoming the audience, Sr. Caroline Menezes said, "Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. Gratitude is the one and only reason of our being here. Our theme for today is 'Building Bridges of Social Friendship for a caring society'. May our coming

Bishop John Rodrigues kindly consented to celebrate the Eucharist, on the feast of St. Joseph wherein we had the felicitation of the Silver Jubilarians and the closing of the Septuagennial Anniversary of Auxilium Convent. He was joined by Rev. Fr. Jude Fernandes. At the homily, his Lordship said "Joseph and Mary were called to say Yes. St. Joseph takes the bold step – not a passive resignation. Having faith means taking bold and courageous steps. You, Srs. Elveera D'souza, Fatima Rego, Gloria Ferrao and Shaila D'Monte journeyed together in the light of faith. Faith is walking by the light of God. I join you in thanking God for your response. Like St. Joseph seek to do the will of God. Congratulations to the Manager, Principal and staff of Auxilium Convent for the

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(Contd.. from p. 14)

70 years of dedicated service. Grow deeper in understanding God's plan for the church and for each of us. May we all like Jesus be busy doing the will of the Father".

Auxilium by Sr. Gloria Ferrao, Singing of the School Anthem by past and present pupils, the lowering of the School Flag to mark the Official Closing of the 70 years celebration by Sr. Meenakshi , Sr. Gloria Ferrao and Tr. Babita.



No programme is complete without the Vote of Thanks and Sr. Shaila was called upon to propose the same. She thanked Bishop John and Fr. Jude for the Eucharistic Celebration

Immediately after Mass, starters and soft drink was served. This was followed by a short cultural programme comprising of the song "Congratulations' and the Power Point presentation on the Jubilarians by Sr. Kalyani Subramanyam and her team, cutting of the cake by the Jubilarians, Raising the toast by Sr. Shiyni, Replying to the toast by Sr. Elveera, Felicitation of the Jubilarians , Jubilee Song composed by Ms. Dolly Afonso and sung by her and the past-pupils, Acknowledging the commitment of ex- teacher, Ms.

Srs. Smitha, Kalyani and Manisha for the Liturgy and Hymns, the Provincial, the Superiors and Sisters for the Wonderful Programme. Tr. Lena Albuquerque for being with Auxilium right from its inception, the families of the Jubilarians for their presence and Ms. Dolly Afonso for her words of appreciation and for compering the show.



Lena Albuquerque by awarding her a Certificate of Merit, some information about our achievements and commitment towards the Platinum Jubilee of

Also late Sr. Eugenia Versino was remembered in a special way because it was on 19 th March, 951 that the portals of Auxilium Convent were opened by her to any girl child irrespective of caste or creed who was eager to receive value based quality education and exactly 11 days later on 30 th March, 1951, she was rewarded for her hard work as Heaven opened its portals and welcomed this front line worker to enjoy the bliss of Paradise.

As our beloved Sr. Rita Dora Thomas stepped down to make room for the new Provincial, all were eager to

know who would take her place and as the news broke out, many a soul rejoiced and thanked God for choosing Sr. Meenakshi D'Silva as the new Provincial. I once happened to read a quote which was written for the students of Akash Institute. It went like this, "Always keep a lot of hunger and fire in your belly to achieve top ranks". I am sure Sr. Meenakshi did just that and achieved the topmost rank. As she is all set to open her innings on 24 th May – the feast of Mary Help of Christians, we need to accompany her with our prayers so that she scores a century.

Well Sr. Meenakshi, May you find a place that suits you perfectly with friends to keep you company, Good things to share, Fun things to do, All these things are wished for you.

*Adios, Deo borem korun tuca,  
Amcho mog visoro naka,  
Amcho ugdas eilari  
Amcam phone korunc phati soro  
naka*

**-- Ms. Dolly Afonso  
Past Pupil of Auxilium Convent**

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**7221. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in a Oil rig. Contact email : renithamas@yahoo.co.in

**7185. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1984) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Bank. Contact email : shaun.neo00.outlook.com

**7113. POONA :** Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1982), Ht. 5' 6", Wt.65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Logistic Co. in **DUBAI**. Contact email : shantasam1955@gmail.com

**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

**6664 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean R.C. Bachelor (Born in December 1982) Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., A.C.A., LLB., C.A. by Profession. Contact email : saldanha\_ryan@yahoo.com OR 9820670158.

**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

**7118. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1981), Ht. 5' 5", Wt.87 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working in Dhoha Metro, in Doha Qatar. Contact email : josephfernandes10@yahoo.com

**6508. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E.. working as a Asst. Manager in German Company. Seeks a tall, well educated homely Mangalorean girl. Contact email : colind.3010@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

**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

**7216. MUMBAI :** Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1988), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, HR specialization, Profession : Lead Recruiter. Contact email : willujames310@gmail.com

**7213. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1989), Ht.6', Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. in Hospitality Studies, working in a reputed organization. Contact email : merwyn1989pinto@gmail.com

**7212. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1991), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Bachelor of Arts, B.H.M.S., Luzern, Switzerland, working as a Restaurant Supervisor. Contact email : noellyn\_p@hotmail.com

**7207. CHANDIGARH :** Anglo Indian Catholic Divorcee, (Born in April 1972),

Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 80 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MFC, MA English, Teacher by profession. Contact email : vishalsud81@gmail.com

**7206. NEW DELHI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in October 1995), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 43 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. Computer Engineer, working as a Project Manager with Paytm. Contact email : dcosta.ria@gmail.com

**7203. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn.B.E. MBA, working for International Company. Contact email : delphinempinto@gmail.com

**7202. MUMBAI :** Keralite Syrian Catholic Bachelor (Born in May 1973), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 73 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., English Literature, Profession : Consultant Administration. Left Hand & Leg is weak due to earlier motor bike accident. Contact Email : josephmullakara1973@gmail.com

**7183. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1991) Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 86 kgs, Wheatish Complexion,Edn. PGDM and BMS., working as a Relationship Manager. Contact email : ritadhawan10@gmail.com

**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

**7175. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1989) Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 74 kgs, Wheatish, Edn. B.Sc (H.C.M.) Hotel and Catering Management, 2nd Photographer/Merchandise Sales Dept., Contact email : osbertagneloalmeida@gmail.com

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# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

**7065. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., & Dip. in Clinical Research, working as Business Process Lead in TCS. Contact email : mendonca\_luke@yahoo.co.in

**7214. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. CA CFA Ms Finance M.Com., working as a Senior Manager. Contact email : frfernandes020@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

**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

**7199. BANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 53 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Master's in Mass Communications (NTU, Singapore) working as a Senior Manager of Corporate Communications in **SINGAPORE**. Contact email : mafern.2121@gmail.com

**6032 DUBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1976), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 41 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Secretary. Contact email : track\_1976@yahoo.com OR 9730454857

**7182. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in

October 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., C.A., working as Asst. Manager in TATA Company. Contact : email : matrimonialp27@gmail.com

**7095. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com + Import Export Certificate Course, working as a Billing Assistant in Well known Hospital. Contact email :

perpetualdias7@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 : prislobo10@gmail.com

**7064. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1988), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, working for Private Company as an Accounts Executive. Contact email : cecrc19@gmail.com

**6504. KUWAIT :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster (Born in June 1980), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Computer, Finance, Banking Marketing Course & Airlines Course completed, employed as a Travel Co-ordinator in Kuwait. Contact Email : lucy777p@gmail.com Tel: 00965-60402765 / 9867308911

**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

**7210. AURANGABAD :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in January 1994), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 48 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, beautiful, Coming from business family, Edn. Chartered Accountant, C.A. by Profession. Contact email : putturaurangabad@gmail.com

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

jacklinemascarenhas@gmail.com

**7174. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC 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

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

**7140. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in November 1991), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduation (BBI), working for a Private Bank as a Deputy Manager. Contact email : glendamisquith9@gmail.com

**7117. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Spinster, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. in English Literature, Teacher by profession. Contact email : examiner2019@gmail.com

**7072. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in April 1991), Ht. 4' 10", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Digital Media, working for Designing Firm. Contact email : aubreyds@gmail.com

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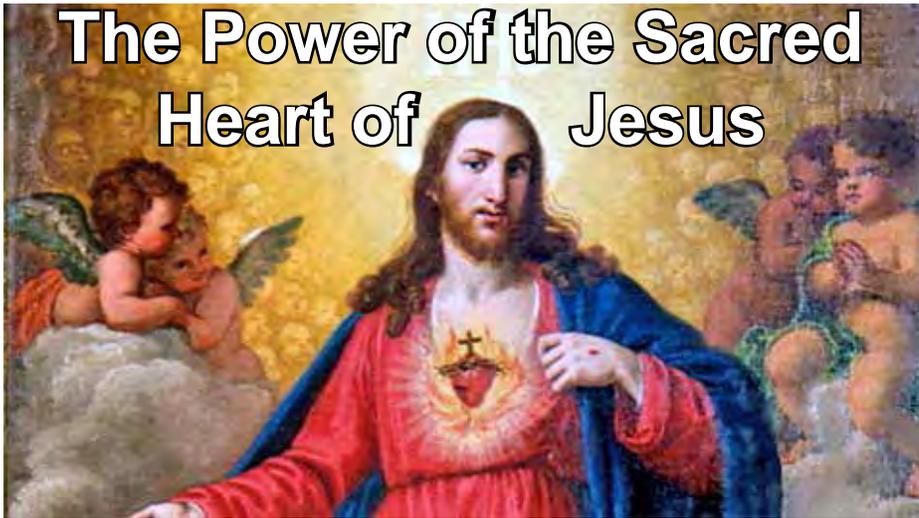
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# The Power of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



refuge, blessings, and an ocean of mercy to repentant souls. Christ is the God of Mercy. It is this **transformative power** that assures us of both His infinite and Divine love for each human person.

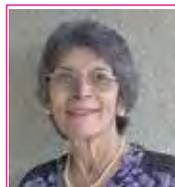
The image of the Sacred Heart has a **compelling power** chiefly to speak to people of all nations and to all who are hurting. Jesus invites everyone to experience His **comforting love** through immeasurable graces, poured out from his pulsating heart. One cannot contemplate such a holy and merciful image with indifference or ingratitude. A single glance will **melt, convert and inspire** us to give our heart in return.

Today humanity is suffering from the pandemic and its many effects. Every country on the globe is in need of compassion, caring and love. The Sacred Heart of Jesus invites us to; *“Come to me, all who you labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.”* (Mt.11:28) Jesus alone knows how to lighten one’s pain and troubles. He also tells us to *“learn from him for he is gentle and humble in heart.”* So, in faith, we merely have to accept his invitation and go to him for his grace and mercy.

Devotion to the Sacred heart is widely practiced the world over. We who know Jesus, honour His Sacred Heart by calling frequently on it, which is an appeal to His precious love and mercy. Most people consecrate their families to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Our prayer to the Sacred Heart can be lengthy as a novena or litany, or as simple as a spontaneous utterance: **“Sacred Heart of Jesus I trust in thee,”** or **“Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us,”** most often said in conclusion to our family Rosary.

On this the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us say: ‘May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified and loved today and every day throughout the whole world now and forever Amen.’

**A**s a child, I remember the beautiful framed picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in our family room. A warm - hearted Jesus welcomed all who entered our home. He lovingly pointed to His Heart, in an eternal gesture of invitation. Whenever I looked at the altar, I felt happy, embraced, loved and uplifted. My parents had great devotion to the Sacred Heart, which they passed down to their children. Truly we viewed it as a symbol of our trust in “God’s boundless and passionate love for mankind.”



by:  
**Dr Jeanette  
Pinto**

us feel sad, unclean, unworthy and depressed. Then we are desirous to make ourselves upright, pure and worthy. The outstanding power of the Sacred Heart is **forgiveness**, which is necessary to free a person from resentment, anger, hostility, and destructive behaviour. All we need to do is to be truly sorry for our transgressions, and go to Jesus with a contrite heart. He is happy to pour out his love into your soul. Jesus truly is for everyone.

In some Christian paintings, we see the power of the Sacred Heart depicted as a **flaming heart** likened to a furnace, radiating with divine rays of light. It is pierced by the lance-wound, encircled by the crown of thorns, topped by a cross and bleeding. Surely Jesus knows and has experienced the pain of his wounded heart. The element of fire has consuming **powers to purify** with tender determination, a symbol of the Divine Fire that burns in every soul.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is traced back to the 11th century. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque had multiple visions of the Sacred Heart. According to her, Jesus made 12 promises to those who honor His Sacred Heart. Summarily, those promises lie in graces, **peace, comfort,**

Our philosophical worldview of the human heart is that it is a symbol of love, care, compassion, kindness, forgiveness, gratitude, patience, and acceptance. Known as the seat of emotions, the heart is synonymous with deep affection. The Sacred Heart of Jesus in addition to all this, is a symbol of God’s divine **overflowing love and mercy** for all humanity. We often sing the hymn, “Sweet heart of Jesus, font of love and mercy,” truly Jesus’ heart is a constant fountain of love and mercy.

We human beings are complex creatures and long for God. Every one of us is a special person born with a unique personality. But we fall into sin ever so often, and this makes

# Jesus, Lord, We Ask For Mercy

**G**od did not create the Covid-19 pandemic to destroy His children.... China did, and set a mood of despair, fear and doubt.

## Today,

A mood of doubt hangs over our heads, or perhaps it is accurate to say a mood of disbelief in God, and a deep-rooted fear of life, loss of family, friends and dreams of a future.

The world's climate of fear, in other words is a fever of fear – and the power of belief in God is a theological truism that God projects a shield to win.... which most humans ignore.

First begin with the trust to know God. Those who wish to discover God must read the Old Testament. Within the 39 books, the history, prophecy and people are introduced as no different to those around us today.



BY MELVYN BROWN

In the core of everything is the infinite and trusting God – a God to believe in and to know. Through the Old Testament God had revealed Himself to us. The Old Testament starts long before time began, before man, before stars and planets, before sun and air, before light and sound, animals, trees and flowers.

It starts with God. The Old Testament tells us about God. How life began, how Satan came into the world, about creation and the prophecies of a Messiah who would be mankind's redeemer. It teaches us to live a holy life. It fills our beings with praise and gratitude.

Today, many have yet to discover God. To many Christian families, The Old Testament is simply "another book" in the Bible.

In our present world the Old Testament is relevant. The language may



seem obscure, but the message is powerful. It is perhaps not surprising to learn that what seems like myths and legends can be proven through science.

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(Contd.. on p. 20)

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(Contd.. from p. 19)

to us now as it was then. The lack of trust we have in God is a one horn

ed specter of fear in our hearts. To make sense of irrational thoughts, we must spend some time to know God through the Old Testament and to understand that it lays a foundation for the whole Bible.

The foundation being that of truth for the superstructure of the New Testament. To know God is to know Christ better. Our Christian faith is held together on the firm foundation of the Old Testament. It is the book of sacred history showing the power and the majesty of an

### Almighty God.

Those who believe in God win his favor. God made and kept his promises, helped those who called out to Him. promises, helped those who

called out to him and had the power to change the course of man's history.

Believe in God and you will be a success in whatever you do. In the Old Testament God sent his prophets with a message paving the way for His coming. There were so many prophets, all with the mission to pave the way for the coming Christ who would bring man hope, the forgiveness of sins and, to be the expected Messiah.

For God's love and forgiveness, for His compassion and comfort we turn to Jesus, to retrace his steps to Calvary, and to better understand the Lord's passion, death and resurrection.

The emotions we feel are caught in the words of the popular hymn:

**God of mercy and compassion,**

**Look with pity upon me.**

Suddenly, the Christ was born. The time had arrived and the word was made flesh and dwelled among us. The truth was being revealed. And Jesus said: "Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." (Matt. 5:17-20)

Jesus wants us to believe on the Old Testament as truth himself. He confirmed the existence of Abraham, Abel, Noah, Lot, Elijah, Elisha and Jonah.

Above all Jesus acknowledged the authority of the leaders of Israel, the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

Finally, Christ turned to the Old Testament for His appeal. When you believe in God, the power of your belief will radiate Christ in your person.

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