

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

United Nations Day 2021 / 24 October

## Making Unity of the Nations Stronger

by Fr Dr M. D. Thomas

The 24th day of October is marked as 'United Nations Day'. This is a memorial of the official creation of the United Nations in 1945. The General Assembly of the United Nations in 1947 declared the day to be celebrated on a regular basis. 'Making known to the people of the world the aims and achievements of the United Nations and gaining support for its work' is the objective of the day.

Further, the United Nations Assembly in 1971 declared through a resolution that the day has to be observed internationally by the Member States as a public holiday. Meetings, discussions and exhibitions on the goals and achievements of the organization were scheduled to be a few of the items to mark the day. Celebrations include also cultural performances, world food fair, and the like.

The first event in the series was the day of solidarity and military parades of the allies of World War II in New York, London, etc, even prior to the official launch of the day. The United Nations Postal Administration issued UN Stamps in US Dollars in 1951. International schools throughout the world would celebrate then the diversity of their student bodies, too.

The United Nations came into being through a historic process. The name 'United Nations' was coined by the then President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt. The name was first used in the declaration of the United Nations on 01 January 1942, during the Second World War. It may be recalled that the United Nations is the only organization in the world with legitimacy, convening power and normative impact.

The Charter of the United Nations was ratified on 26 June 1945. It was signed by the five Permanent Members of the Security Council, namely China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States. It was also signed by the representatives of 51 Member States, including Poland that signed it later.

The current times are known for the urgency for all countries to come together and fulfill the promises of the nations as a united body. The corona pandemic has been a major reminder for the humans of the earth for re-visioning a major preparedness against future pandemics and other global challenges, as well.

The 75th anniversary of the United Nations and its Charter was celebrated in the year 2020, a time when the corona pandemic disrupted highly the social and economic fabric of the world. The anniversary was a great occasion to realize that times of struggle are great opportunities for change and makeover for the better. It also affirmed the 'interrelated character of life' as a community, nation, global society and creation.

Celebrating the UN Day, the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations hosts a 'UN Concert', which even the pandemic times screened as a prerecorded form. In addition, the UN Day in Kosovo is an official non-working day. Philippines have a dramatic presentation of school children appearing in the national costumes of the Member States, along with their flags, after having done a study of their cultural characteristics.

The UN concert is a brilliant concept that elaborates the spirit and idea of the unity of nations. The 75th anniversary in 2020 had the theme 're-imagine, re-balance and re-start: recovering together for our shared humanity'. Performances and concerts, along with a series of classical, modern and re-imagined dances, are often on the schedule of the concert programme, too.

Art and culture in general and music and dance in particular are powerful mediums that can bring people together and get connected and engaged with each

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Take another controversial Latin saying, “Roma locuta, causa finita est” (Rome has spoken, the case is closed). This too is attributed to another North African, St. Augustine, in the early 5th century. It was a response to the Pelagian heresy. In contrast today the Church acknowledges that it has much to learn from the secular world. “This sacred synod affirms the legitimate autonomy of human culture and especially of the sciences” (GS 59). Turning full circle, the present Synod emphasises listening to those on the margins, the voiceless.

My next example is of marriage. St Paul had a warped idea of it, because of his belief that the end of the world was near. Nevertheless, he was humble enough to admit that it was his own personal opinion when he said, “I have no directions from the Lord, but I give my own opinion ... from now on those who have wives should live as though they had none” (1 Cor 7:25,29). This statement was for centuries blown out of proportion and context by a male celibate clergy to denigrate marriage as second class. Again, in sharp contrast, this is what Vatican II has to say about marriage, “Finally, Christian spouses in virtue of the sacrament of matrimony, signify and partake of the mystery of that unity and fruitful love which exists between Christ and his Church ... The family, is so to speak, the domestic Church” (LG 11). Far from being second class, Vatican II asserts that marriage and family life are a beautiful way of being Church, making Christ present in the modern world.

I will take one more example (there are many more to establish the sea change wrought by Vatican II in the church's orthodoxy, if not entirely in its orthopraxis). There are several instances in the New Testament where slaves are told to docilely obey their masters (cf Eph 6:5, Col 3:23, Titus 2:9). Again in sharp contrast this is what the Council had to say, “Among the basic rights of the human person

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**W**hat a silly question. It is just eleven kilometres from Jerusalem. There's more to it than meets the eye though. There are just two references to Emmaus in the Bible, one each in both the Testaments. In the light of the Synod on Synodality 2021-23 both incidents are significant.

Take the first incident recorded in the historical book 1Macabees Chapter 4. It recounts a fierce battle in 134 BC between the forces led by Judas the Israelite and Gorgias a Gentile. Judas' forces are outnumbered and ill-equipped. Yet they win the battle because of their faith. This is significant in view of the doubts and cynicism in the minds of many, not just the laity, regarding the Synod.

They too feel that we are ill-equipped (not quite ready for such a mammoth exercise) and outnumbered (in the sense that the views of the hierarchy and clergy will prevail over that of the ignorant laity). This is human logic. But the power of God far exceeds human logic or estimates. If we have faith, then indeed we can move mountains (cf Mat 17:20) of doubt.

Take the example of Vatican II. Before that we had a priest centred liturgy, with the priest having his back to the congregation. He occasion-

ally whipped around to ominously say “Dominus vobiscum” in Latin, an alien language. While the Mass was in progress some in the congregation would be fingering their rosary beads, while others were making the rounds of various statues in niches in the church. Has not that changed radically to a far more participative and meaningful liturgy? (Even if we still have miles to go).



by chhotebhai \*

Earlier we arrogantly stated that there was no salvation outside the Catholic Church, thereby consigning all Protestants, heretics, schismatics, non-Christians and atheists to hell. This Latin statement “Extra ecclesiam nulla salus” is attributed to the writings of St Cyprian of Carthage in the third century. In contrast see this statement from the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church. “Those also can attain to everlasting salvation who through no fault of their own do not know the gospel of Christ or his Church, yet sincerely seek God, and moved by his grace, strive by their deeds to do His will as it is known to them through the dictates of conscience. Nor does divine Providence deny the help necessary for salvation to those who, without blame on their part, have not yet arrived at an explicit knowledge of God, but who strive to live a good life, thanks to His grace” (LG16). I see this as one of the crucial turning points of Vatican II.

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other in the spirit of solidarity. Such a framework serves a fertile ground for re-imagining and re-balancing a united world for the future generations as well as for the present one, in a collaborative way.

The 'global conversation with people' initiated by the Secretary General of the United Nations in 2020 is a historic case in point. The dialogues and surveys thus conducted brought together the hopes and fears of the peoples for the future, along with their priorities for international cooperation.

Besides, the findings of the above global dialogue have been taken into account by world leaders. 'The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism' was the theme of the inter-governmental process. This resulted in several forward-looking political declarations at the 75th anniversary celebrations.

It is noteworthy again that the 75th anniversary of the United Nations was in the middle of the corona pandemic on the global level. On this critical occasion, the Secretary Gen-

eral of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, placed a clarion call to the world, "I ask people everywhere to join together. The United Nations not only stands with you...The 'United Nations' belongs to you and is you: we the peoples".



Fr. Dr. M. D. Thomas

Obviously, the United Nations is geared towards securing cooperation from the nations of the world, in view of solving international problems of economic, social, cultural and humanitarian character. Its priorities include disaster relief, humanitarian aid, international unity and peacekeeping.

The concerns of the United Nations include also promoting respect for human rights and the fundamental freedom of all persons, irrespective of differences in race, sex, language, religion, faith, ideology, culture, food habits, dress patterns, nationality, and the like. The United Nations is oriented to standing for the eternal values of fraternity, cultural interaction, unity in diversity and universal humanity.

'United Nations Day' is a standing invitation for all nations to rise above narrow, distorted, divisive and fanatic

notions of nationalism. It is also an opportunity to shed hostilities towards other nations and make friendship with all nations, especially the neighbouring ones, rather than challenging them. The day is a timely summons to think larger, inclusive, universal and worldwide in terms of a 'global citizenship' and to collaborate with one and all, towards making a world that is really better for the humans to have their being.

Finally, the 'United Nations Day 2021' is a great occasion for us, fellow citizens of the world society, to imbibe the spirit of the United Nations and its Charter and abide by the principles of freedom, singularity, fraternity and unity of one and all, across the nations. In line with the theme of this year, 2021, 'recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world', we need to together 're-imagine, re-balance and re-start', in favour of a 'shared humanity'.

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The author is Director, Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi, and has been committed to cross-cultural perspectives, interfaith relations, social ethics, national integration and social harmony, for the past over 40 years. He contributes to the above cause through lectures, articles, books, video messages, conferences, social interactions, views at TV channels, and the like.

must be counted the right of freely founding labour unions ... Another such right is that of taking part freely in the activity of these unions without risk of reprisal ... The strike can still be a necessary, though ultimate, means for the defence of the workers own rights and the fulfilment of their just demands” (GS 68).

I have quoted just a few instances from Vatican II ecclesiology to indicate that it was indeed a watershed moment in the life of the church; its changed self-understanding, and consequent interaction with the world “outside its walls”. Sure we still have many miles to go in its implementation, but that should not lead us to despair or cynicism. Remember that despair is the main weapon of the Evil One, whereas hope is a cardinal Christian virtue. If someone were to still insist that Vatican II was a failure, I would throw the book at them, the good book, the Bible. How far have we followed the teachings of Jesus in the sacred scriptures? Instead of blaming Vatican II or the Bible, let us look inwardly at ourselves. Like the rich young man we may have kept all the laws, and not yet become disciples of Jesus (cf Mat 19:16-22).

I now move to the second instance of Emmaus, one of my favourites. The incident is reported in Luke 24:13-35. We have read this passage many times. Let us now reflect on it in the light of the Synod “journeying together”. Emmaus is the perfect example of that. It happened on the very day of the Resurrection (v13). They were discussing the event (v15). Jesus joined them but they didn’t recognize him (v16). When Jesus challenged them they became downcast (v17). The disciples then spoke about the death and resurrection of Jesus (v19-24). Jesus then explained the scriptures to them (v 25-27). At the end of the journey he broke bread with them (v30). He then vanished from their sight (v31). They found their hearts burning (v32). They then rushed to bear witness to their

experience (v33).

This Pilgrim’s Progress may not be quite like the one written by John Bunyan in 1678, but it is full of relevance in the light of the Synod. Look at the sequence of events – journeying together (participation), reflecting on the death and resurrection of Jesus, Jesus himself encountering them, being confronted by him, feeling downcast (humbled), but not down and out. They reflected on the scriptures, shared the breaking of the bread (communion). Their hearts burned (they were enthused), and they immediately set out to bear witness (mission).

This is exactly what the Synod is all about - journeying together, listening, sharing, participating, meditating on the passion and resurrection, contemplating the Word of God, breaking bread and finally going out.

Some readers may have a niggling doubt – where did Jesus vanish after the breaking of the bread? Had he abandoned them? To the contrary; their hearts burned. They had internalised Jesus. He was incarnated in them. The Word became flesh, as it does, time and again, in those who believe.

As we begin our Synod preparations let us draw inspiration from both the events of Emmaus. Only then will the Synod attain its purpose. A final word of caution. Pope Francis has repeatedly warned that the Synod is not an end in itself. The Synod may end but synodality is the new way forward; of being church through participation, communion and mission.

Come Holy Spirit to lead and inspire us. Enkindle in us the fires of your love as you did to the disciples on their journey to Emmaus.

• *The writer is the Convenor of the Indian Catholic Forum. This is the fourth part of his ongoing reflections on the Synod on Synodality.*

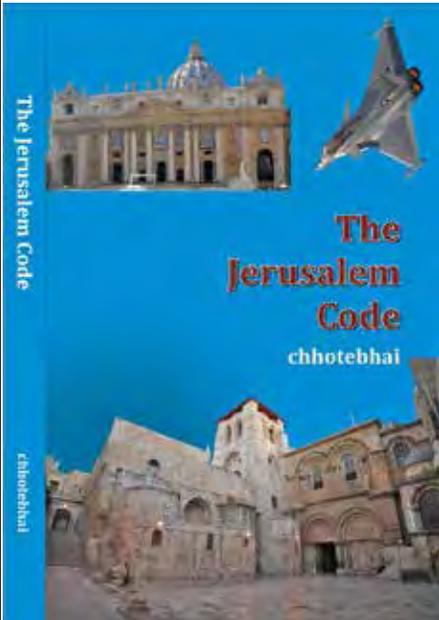
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## Aryan Khan finally gets bail!

24 days imprisonment of 23 year old young boy Aryan Khan was unjust. He had neither consumed drugs nor was he found in possession of it. The NCB had made no recovery of drugs from Aryan nor conducted a medical examination to show consumption of any narcotic. Just a WhatsApp chat referring to having a 'blast' at the rave party, between him and a friend were "misinterpreted" by the NCB as about consuming drugs in the rev party at the cruise!

Ad. Rohatgi argued that even in a case of "conscious possession" of narcotics, there is provision of one-year imprisonment. The boys could have been sent for rehabilitation rather than imprisoned! Aryan's rev party group were young boys in possession of miserable 6 grams! They could have been considered as just victims rather than hardened criminals and sent to rehab centre. Ad. Rohatgi argued in his rejoinder that the NCB failed to prove the offence of conspiracy" of the youth too! Yet they were kept in the jail for 24 days. Why? Simply because of religion, bribe or party politics?

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Yes, now dirty party politics has entered into this case. Sameer Wankhede, a zonal director of the NCB has been facing the ire of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi government in the state. He has been accused of being a "BJP agent", taking bribes from the Bollywood celebrities and maligning the Maharashtra government's image!

Anyway at least after 24 days justice dawned! Will those responsible for mis handling the case be punished at least with a day's imprisonment? Let us hope that no more innocent people are locked up in prison in the name of party politics!

—*Michael G.,  
Vasai.*

## Goan Jewish connection

Recently in a Mumbai Christian publication there was a report of DNA studies of Goan Catholics undertaken by a history research group in Mumbai. Among the findings was a strong genetic connection of Goan Catholics to the Hindu GSB group and also Jewish traits. The authors raise the possibility of a Goan connection to "The Lost Tribe of Israel." The Goan connection with the GSB is understandable. The connection with the "Lost Tribe of Israel" is more distant when there may be two closer explanations.

Arriving to Goa during the Portuguese colonization were a large number of Iberian Jews, Muslims and Conversos - converted Muslims and Jews. This was specially so where there was Inquisition in Iberia and no Inquisition in Goa (1540-1560). Many of them (called castios) took advantage of the colonial government land-grant programs to encourage their marriage

to native girls. This also encouraged more of them to migrated to the Eastern colonies. It is reported by scientific papers that the native girls and their families (both Catholic and Hindus) also welcomed the program as the land could only be inherited and could not be sold. Clearly over generations the genes of these mestizos were distributed among the native population.

Another avenue for Jewish connection are the Jewish settlements along the west coast of India from North Konkan to south Canara dating to the time of Christ. As reported, the Apostle Bartholomew arrived in Kalyan and the surrounding areas converting these Jewish groups to Christians; similar to what Apostle Thomas did in Kerala. These converted groups belonged to the "Church of the East" and later became Nestorians. There are some reports of Nestorians in Goa and west coast of India at the time of the arrival of the Portuguese. Likely these Christian groups joined the Latin Church and married with later-day converts.

—*Gilbert Lawrence,  
Co-author: Insights into Colonial  
Goa*

### Thanksgiving



Thanks to Sacred Heart of Jesus & St. Jude for the favours granted

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, loved, glorified & praised throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Sacred Heart of Jesus Thy kingdom come. St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude helper of the hopeless pray for us. Amen,

Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days.

- Mrs. Philomena D'souza, Bandra

# A 'Power-Less' Ambience Beckons

**W**ould it be right to say that the importance of certain amenities in life is lost on the people until one fine day these comforts turn into liabilities and the government steps into introduce austerity measures to restrict their use!

Supply of water and electricity has always featured as public facilities which have had 'essentiality' written all over them for the government. Hence unstinted efforts have been made to ensure that people do not suffer on account of disruption in any of these utility services.

As utilities, water, electricity and gas are categorized as essential services and play a vital role in the economic and social development of any region. While the populace, as the taxpayers, expect quality utility services from its government; India continues to be a country where access to potable water and power connectivity are distant dreams for many villages and distant hamlets in the hinterlands.

Even areas which boast of unrestricted water and uninterrupted power supply, the consumers have had to put up with dry taps and frequent blackouts. Although the locals have plenty of reasons to complain about, the residents have now learnt to live with these anomalies and treat them as normal occurrences.

While one wouldn't like to comment on the promises of 'free water' and 'free electricity' by various political parties that elections in India in recent times has been bringing with it, this 'intended generosity' to the aam aadmi will always remain bad economics



according to experts.

The Goa Power Minister and his Delhi counterpart engaging in a high-voltage debate over AAP's free promise of free electricity for up to 300 units if it is voted to power in the 2002 state assembly polls and the immediate launch of his government's 'Save Water to Get Free Water' scheme by the Chief Minister which assures that locals will not be charged for consumption up to 16000 litres need only be seen as popularity stunts in the face of the fast-approaching elections - but one that 'guarantees' financial repercussions at a later stage.



by Pachu Menon

It is time such types of politics is given the go-by. Almost all utility services depend on a number of factors for their smooth delivery. Chief among them is nature and natural 'capitals'. If not used judiciously, there is every chance of the drying-up of the assets.

Hence the news that nearly a dozen states are staring at an imminent power crisis due to non-availability of coal is not something that can be taken lightly.

As the ongoing coal shortage in India is becoming more serious with each passing day, states are contemplating load-shedding as a means to cope with the looming power exigency.

With warnings of a developing power crunch due to shortage of coal, the

central government has pressed all resources at its command to ensure power plants have enough feed-stock to generate electricity.

Despite the assurances from the Ministry of Coal with regards to the availability of

ample coal in the country to meet the demand, apprehensions of power disruption in the coming days are not entirely misplaced.

As factors that have contributed to the present crisis, the contention that record production of coal in the country notwithstanding, excessive rains in coal-producing belt hit movement of fuel from mines to power generation units impacting power generation in many states does appear justified.

Besides, the fact that power plants that used imported coal to generate electricity have either curtailed generation or completely stopped as a spurt in international energy prices has made it difficult for them to meet the commitments to the states at a particular rate, has been another impeding factor.

Although the ministry has belied fears of a power disaster in the making for the moment, the fact remains that the depletion of natural resources will have a serious impact on electricity generation in the coming future.

Nevertheless, accustomed to the luxuries that have come with the fast-paced development the country has been witnessing in the past few decades, it would be difficult to imagine a scenario where the aam aadmi would be ready to compromise on the daily comforts afforded.

States imposing power-cuts to tide over the temporary glitch has not

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been unheard of in the past. In fact in Kerala and Karnataka it was a daily routine residents had got accustomed to some years back. When the lights went off at pre-designated hours, locals were ready with their own means and ways to ward off the darkness.

In this respect, power-cuts could be thought of as a means of conserving energy. But the abject neglect shown by the department personnel themselves towards saving energy sends across wrong signals. Streetlights continuing to glow throughout the day, for instance! Not to say that the public has given an exemplary account of itself in this regard.

For a common man the two major motives for conserving energy are to save on utility bills and protect the environment. While some simple behavioural adjustments are enough to bring about admirable results, it is however the abject disregard shown for the little 'inputs' that could one day save Planet Earth that has been irritating.

For that matter, conservation has never been a strong point with the modern generation!

At any rate, the careful preservation and protection of our natural resources is a matter of utmost importance and one that cannot be marginalized any further.

Although frequent power problems and water woes continue to assail it; thankfully, Goa is not in such a precarious situation that it has to worry much about power-cuts and rationing of water at this point of time!

But conserving resources and sustainable development are yet to be realized in their true perspective and unless that happens, a rendezvous with a great disaster is an absolute certainty.

-THE END

## Look Forward In Faith To The After Life

In conformity with nature, death has the function of giving validity to the cause of human life as being a mediator between dust and the spirit. We are all incorporated into Christ in a supernatural way by His sacrifice and death in the final liturgical act which sets us free from the imperfect self to wear the immortal and perfect spirit for heaven.

The humanity of Christ is unique: God "dwelt among us full of grace and truth" (Jn.1:14). When the Word came into the world, "He does not leave the right hand of the Father (St. Thomas, *verbum supernum*) and yet as a human being he stays inside the sanctuary of heaven while his body on earth becomes the spiritual lamb who takes away the sins of the world.

In the year 66 the Apostle Paul had been imprisoned for the second time in Rome. At that dark hour the word 'Hebrew' was a name given to the Jews living in Rome. The writer of the "Letter to the Hebrews" was not the apostle Paul, but a man called Appollos who was well read in scriptures and expressed the thoughts and ideas of what the apostle Paul told him.

"Although he was Son, he learned, through suffering, what obedience was, and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation, for those who obey him." (Heb.5:8-9).

The children of God are linked to the humanity of Christ, a strong reason to know, that since Jesus had become "the source of eternal salvation," we will objectively and truly gain eternal life.

"The religion of the law is only a shadow of the good things to come; it has the patterns but not the realities." (Heb.10:1).

We should look forward in faith to the other life. Reason and faith can never contradict each other, it is always

possible to integrate one with the other as both are from the Lord. Saint Thomas lived with this conviction and considered these two gifts from the savior as intellectual lights.

Peace and happiness in the life after life comes from the apparent cooperation and love of the Holy Spirit. The privilege to have a spiritual hereafter shows us the love God has for His creatures evoking a beautiful outgrowth of His compassion for human beings.

In the Gospel of John we discover evidence for life after death. It comes from the words of the Lord: "Do not be troubled! Trust in God and trust in me! In my Father's house there are many rooms; otherwise, I would not have told you that I go to prepare a place for you..." (Jn.14:1-2).

Christ came as the more complete mediator, he spoke for God, taught His law and led the people to the sanctuary of his Father's kingdom. And so we know that the hereafter is a reality to look forward to in faith.



BY MELVYN BROWN

The Holy Spirit also inspires poets, writers, painters, thinkers, philosophers and many others to weave messages of the life beyond this life. The Psalm of Life by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, is an example.

"Life is real life is earnest and the grave is not its goal. Dust thou art to dust returnest, was not spoken of the soul. "

Should human faith fail in belief and in spiritual works, Christ remains constant with his love for us, his Presence and willingness to forgive the repentant.

When you believe in God the Father and in Jesus His Son, God will send showers of blessings on you, and He will take you to His eternal life of happiness in the here after. Look forward in faith!



## Marriage: Good or Bad?

day you ask any kid irrespective of the gender the first response we hear is, no we don't want to get married and waste our life but we want to become something in life. Well, it's a sad state that the idea of marriage being bad is filled into the minds of youngsters who grow up with the same attitude and end up having bad and failed relationships.

When I announced to my friends that I would be married at an age of 25 some of them laughed and made fun and told me that it was my end and the rest of my life I would take care of my husband and children which was definitely not the case. Marriage for me till today has been the most beautiful journey. Yes, like any couple we have had our own ups and downs, we have had bitter fights, we have yelled and cried but we have also stood beside each other no matter what come may. We have had some of the best moments which we would never enjoy if we weren't united in the holy sacrament of matrimony.

When I ask few of my friends why they choose not to marry they promptly say that marriages we see around are collapsing and they don't want to enter into a relationship and regret. Well, we see marriages failing is not because there is a fault in marriage but because we fail to select the right person and most of the time, we ourselves fail to be a good spouse. Today most of the youngsters look for unrealistic pleasures from a relationship, they assume that everything would be rosy and when things go a little out of hand they would want to snap out and look for other greener pastures.

I would definitely not want to be judgemental here, I know there are some situations which are out of control and one cannot do much about it but most of the time any marriage can definitely be saved with compromise, understanding, forgiveness and lot of love. Maybe we need to be a good example to our children and take inspiration from our parents and lead a beautiful married life.

**T**hey say there is always a difference of opinion and conceptualization of various aspects from one generation to the another. One such institution which has been rapidly changing and perceptions differing is that of Marriage.

When I was younger and watched my aunts and uncles enter into nuptial bonds, I would always witness a positive environment where both the bride and groom would look forward to a new beginning and people around spoke very positively about building a beautiful relationship together. But today the scenes have completely changed, when someone is about to get married the first comment murmured by most of them is "Game over" it's the end.

### Well, is it really an end of good life?

Recently I spoke to one of my friends who was married with a kid, on enquiring about her life she promptly told me that she was very unhappy and regretted marrying and having a kid early. I was taken back because I knew that her husband was a good man and the

concept of bad marriage was never in the picture. She then told me that after delivering the baby her husband had asked her to take a break for few months and concentrate on the kid after which she could resume her work once they could find a reliable caretaker to take care of the baby, but she was so upset staying at home and spending time between the four walls that she assumed that the marriage itself was bad. I took a while to make her understand that her husband was definitely not wrong since he had not stopped her from

working but had just asked her to stay back till, they could find good hands and moreover it was the time she had to take care of herself and the baby. She seemed to be not convinced but I was convinced that most of us today term marriage bad just because one's desires are not fulfilled and it has nothing to do with marriage being good or bad.

In the past when we asked small kids what they wanted to become in the future many of them promptly would say they wanted to be married but to-



by Sonal Lobo

(Contd.. on p. 9)

(Contd.. from p. 8)

No relationship is easy, the relationship between parent and child is often tuff, the friendship between friends is sometimes taxing, the bond we share with our siblings is often complicated and most of us take efforts to keep these relationships, then why do we not take a little extra effort to keep the bond of marriage strong.

I have always admired by parents who have lived close to 34 years together and still growing strong. I have never ever once heard my mother or father complain about each other. Their love and commitment for each other tickles in me an urge to live the same kind of married life. The mistake most of us today do is draw our inspiration and get influenced by the broken marriages we see around, the media and the media persons and their life impact us so much that we make conclusions before actually entering into the bond.

In this article I am definitely not saying that marriage is easy or cake walk, probably if you think logically, it's the most difficult relationship in the world but it is worth it for each and every inch of effort, we put in. I myself am enjoying a beautiful bliss, marriage has made me tremendously strong, I have learnt to tackle situations in life in a calmer and composed manner. Well, I have not given up my passions and desires, it's my husband support and helping hand that motivated me to publish books, it's his encouragement that made me take up chocolate making and awakened the entrepreneur skills in me. Most of all marriage has made me look forward to quiet eve-

nings in my husband's arms giggling and laughing, it's given me a best friend for life.

Through this writing two most important things which I wanted to highlight was firstly marriage is definitely not bad or the end of happiness, but a beginning of a fun filled and satisfying adventure. For a marriage to work we definitely need to put in efforts, at times we may have to say yes when we wish to say no, we may have to give up a little or take in more but all of it will not go waste when you are doing it for the person you love. I wouldn't say one needs to give up self-respect or kill one's dream to be married, but rather when there are situations which demands nothing but a little compromise and adjustments let's not fail to do so and save our marriage. Secondly let us make a wise choice when we are selecting our life partner. Most of us today get carried away by looks, money and wealth we fail to analyse whether we will be in the position to spend our life with the person for the rest of our days. Let us learn to make a good choice and select a person who suits our temperament and try leading a beautiful married life.

Next time if any of your friend or relative is moving ahead to get married don't tell them it's end of their life, but tell them how beautiful marriage is. Try creating a positive environment so that the young couple would enter the holy sacrament fearlessly and remain happy and contended forever and also the coming generations would learn to respect and preserve the sanctity of marriage.

## The Two Neighbours

Once upon a time, there were two neighbours living next to each other. One of them was a retired teacher and another was an insurance agent who had a lot of interest in technology. Both of them had planted different plants in their garden. The retired teacher was giving a small amount of water to his plants and didn't always give a full attention to them, while the other neighbour interested in technology, had given a lot of water to his plants and looked after them too well.

The retired teacher's plants were simple but looked good. The insurance agent's plants were much fuller and greener. One day, during the night, there was a heavy rain and a wind due to a minor storm. Next morning, both of the neighbours came out to inspect the damage to their garden. The neighbour who was an insurance agent saw that his plants came off from the roots and were totally destroyed. But, the retired teacher's plants were not damaged at all and were standing firm.

The insurance agent neighbour was surprised to see it, he went to the retired teacher and asked, "We both grew the same plants together, I actually looked after my plants better than you did for yours, and even gave them more water. Still, my plants came off from the roots, while yours didn't. How is that possible?"

The retired teacher smiled and said, "You gave your plants more attention and water, but because of that they didn't need to work themselves for it. You made it easy for them. While I gave them just an adequate amount of water and let their roots search for more. And, because of that, their roots went deeper and that made their position stronger. That is why my plants survived."

Moral: This story is about parenting where children are like plants. If everything is given to them, they will not understand the hard work it takes to earn those things. They will not learn to work themselves and respect it. Sometimes it's best to guide them instead of giving them. Teach them how to walk, but let them follow their path.

—Jubel D'Cruz

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# It's Time to Acknowledge That All Is Not Well

by *Don Aguiar.*

**A**s the Indian Cricket Team took a knee as display of protest against racism, here in India, their own teammate Mohammad Shami had to face humiliating and brutal abuses owing to the team's loss against Pakistan.

**Showing solidarity towards a fight against racism in some other country while ignoring the communalism in your own country does not make you a Hero, it makes you a hypocrite.**

You have to learn the difference between someone disrespecting you vs. you feeling disrespected. Emotional ears hear from a place of offense. Sometimes it's not what they said, it's what you are triggered by. And unless you know your triggers, you'll see everything as an attack. This is the present situation of members of India's ruling party the BJP brainwashed with their communal agenda.

The idiocy, intolerance and arrogance of some of the new breed of leaders in the BJP seem to have no bounds. They are so drunk on power that they think they can get away with anything – not only verbal violence but also instigating physical violence and even economic terrorism.

In their bid to impose rigid cultural uniformity on Hindu society, they are hurting the soul of Hinduism, which is its incredible diversity and its widely admired spirit of tolerance and respect for other faiths and cultures. They are also hurting the soul of India, which prides in its even greater diversity and is universally admired for its commitment to unity in diversity.

Furore against Fabindia ad is dispiriting. This Diwali let light fall on darkened minds.

It is pertinent to note that the Constitution speaks of cherishing & protecting our 'composite' culture - a blending of great minds, traditions & beliefs. The Constitution doesn't talk of 'Hindu' culture. Nor did the Fabindia in its impugned caption. The company rightly spoke of 'Indian' culture.

Diwali is a festival of lights. Let light fall on darkened minds & let's rejoice, intermingling with faiths & traditions of all kinds.

When I celebrate Christmas at home, my Christian friends never complain that I do so in a non-abrahmic way. When my Muslims friends greet me on Diwali, Holi or Dussehra, I do not insist that they do so in a strictly "Hindu" way.

Do they even realise that they, and others like them in the BJP, are breaking up our country "into fragments" by erecting "narrow domestic walls"?

**Which takes us to the prognosis - PITY THE NATION (After Khalil Gibran)**

Pity the nation whose people are sheep  
And whose shepherds misled them  
Pity the nation whose leaders are liars  
Whose sages are silenced  
And whose bigots haunt the airwaves  
Pity the nation that rises not its voice  
Except praise conquerors  
And acclaim the bully as hero  
And aims to rule the world  
By force and by torture  
Pity the nation that knows  
No other language but its own  
And no other culture but its own  
Pity the nation whose breath is money  
And sleeps the sleep of the too well fed  
Pity the nation oh pity the people, who  
allow their rights to erode, and their  
freedoms to be washed away  
My country, tears of thee  
Sweet land of liberty!

True to Khalil Gibran prognosis, presently the democratic world is completely surprised at the behaviour

of the Indian people who are putting up with intolerance and arrogance of the ruling party – the BJP. The Indian people are in no mood to protest and get the nation back to a secular democratic set up as most of them are busy increasing their wealth, courtesy the ruling party enticement. Of late the Indian Prime Minister when on visit to a foreign democratic country is berated on his style of autocratic functioning, and given a lesson in democracy and human rights.

A recent example given to the Indian Prime Minister was of the communal riots in Bangladesh which happens very rarely compared to India where it is a daily common mode of the ruling party – the BJP – to terrorise, destroy places of worship, lodge false police complains on conversion, etc.

The united Bengal – Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal – is historically known for the worst events of communal violence in world history. But this time, the Bangladesh government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, political parties, journalists and opinion makers all spoke in unison against the attacks on Hindus.

The opposition to the communal violence was so united that it is not easy to find even fringe voices supporting anti-Hindu violence. The Bangladesh public sphere spoke in one voice.

This is not the case in India..... Bangladesh can teach India how to handle hate crimes.

The way Bangladesh responded to the religious violence against Hindu minorities has set a template for all liberal democracies of the world. It did not go for split-screen debate of both-siderism. The condemnation was unequivocal and universal.

(Contd.. on p. 11)

India is now rated as an 'electoral autocracy' which means that people in India are less free today than they were earlier. Autocracy means a system of government by one person with absolute power, and in this case it is Modi. It is more or less like dictatorship with restrictions on various things like freedom of speech, society groups and pressure groups and so on.

A Nation is not defined by violent acts of bigotry. A Nation is defined by how it responds to violent acts of bigotry. And while we the people of India are in sleeping mode, Modi continues his autocratic functioning for a Hindu Rashtra.

Modi has turned India the world's largest democracy into an autocracy which is now only a partly free country from being a free country earlier. There is rising violence and discriminatory policies on the minority population, crackdown on expression of media, civil society groups, protesters, and people have been punished for speaking up, etc. there are misuse of laws for sedition, counter terrorism, communalism, and internet shut down and so on to silence those who are critical of the government which have increased manifold resulting in it becoming a censorship country as bad as Pakistan and worse than Nepal. This has specifically happened during the Modi regime.

Does it really mean that India is losing its democratic status or its democracy and the world is ganging up on India?

India is the largest democracy and in a democratic country you have the right and freedom to put your views without fear, right to express, choose your religion, food, dress and so on. If these facts are contrary and critical of India's democratic image. It's time to acknowledge that not all is well.

# Brotherly Love Like No Other!

*A short story for our times\**

***"Brothers aren't simply close; brothers are knit together."***

***– Robert Frost***

**S**hortly before Santiago D'Mello, a widower in Bhate village, passed into eternity, he divided his massive farmland between his two sons, Pascal and Robert, even overseeing the bifurcation of the house he had so lovingly built and its refurbishment on both sides of the divide. The two brothers, however, after erecting a strong fence around the entire plot, decided to have a low makeshift fence marking the bifurcation of the property, even as they each busied themselves with their own individual lives, making sure to keep in touch. But the touch turned out to be short-lived for the siblings soon had a misunderstanding over some trivial matter and stopped talking.

As the two brothers got on in age, however, the younger one, Robert, developed a sense of concern for his elder brother. Said he to himself: "I have as much property as Pascal does. However, I am single whereas Pascal has a wife and two children – which is quite a big responsibility. I must consider sharing my largesse with Pascal and his family. Of course, he won't accept it because we are not on talking terms. But I have an idea....!" Very late one night when it was apparent that both houses had their lights switched off, Robert carried a heavy sack of freshly harvested grain on his shoulders and crossing over the low fence soundlessly emptied it into Pascal's barn before turning in for the night.

The next day, a similar thought coursed through Pascal's mind – "I

wonder how Robert is doing these days since the time of our misunderstanding. I am well-off now – I have my wife to look after me, my son and my daughter who are fast growing up and will soon be doing well for themselves. But my brother is all alone - no wife, no kids to look after him.... Why do I need so much of grain? I'll go and put a sackful of it in his barn tonight so that at least the sufficiency of grain will be some source of consolation to Robert as he gets on in age." And he did precisely that as soon as he was sure that it was well past midnight, even though the two were incommunica-

do. This went on for about a fortnight, with one brother adding to the stock in the other's barn every alternate night. However, it wasn't

long before both brothers noticed that the stock in their own barn seemed to not lessen at all despite their respective generosity, each wondering as to the reason.

Now it so happened that on the fifteenth day, Pascal, feeling a bit indisposed, couldn't keep his night tryst, but followed up the next night. It was, as usual, past midnight when he loaded the sack of grain on his shoulders and as he proceeded to execute his plan, who did he bump into at the fence but Robert bearing a sackful of grain on his shoulders. Each stunned at seeing the other, no words were exchanged but the chemistry of genuine concern on the part of each for the other had manifested itself that night, a warm bear-hug to the accompaniment of tears sealed the genuineness of their mutual love for aye!



by Ladislaus Louis D'Souza

*\*with names changed for obvious reasons*

When I have money, I have nothing to buy.  
When I don't have money, I want everything.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Little Jacob

Little Jacob is always being teased by the other neighborhood boys for being stupid jew. Their favorite joke is to offer Jacob his choice between a nickel and a dime -- Little Jacob always takes the nickel.

One day, after Jacob takes the nickel, a neighbor man takes him aside and says, "Jacob, those boys are making fun of you. Don't you know that a dime is worth more than a nickel, even though the nickel's bigger?"

Jacob grins and says, "Well, if I took the dime, they'd stop doing it, and so far I've made \$20!"

\*\*\*\*\*

### Custody Case

A man and his young wife were in divorce court, but the custody of their children posed a problem.

The mother gets up and says to the judge that since she brought the children into this world, she should retain custody of them.

The man also wanted custody of his children, so the judge asked for his justification.

After a long silence, the man slowly rose from his chair and replied, "Your Honor, when I put a dollar in a vending machine and a Coke comes out, does the Coke belong to me or the machine?"

\*\*\*\*\*

### Keeping Wife Happy

A husband desperate to keep his hot wife happy offers to buy his wife a new car.

She cutely declines his offer by saying, "That's not quite what I had in mind."

Frantically he offers her a new house. Again she rejects his offer, "That's not quite what I had in mind."

Curious, he asks: "What did you have in mind?"

She retorts, "I'd like a divorce."

He answers, "I hadn't planned on spending quite that much."



\*\*\*\*\*

### What is the difference between India and USA?

An Indian would introduce himself as, "I grew up with 5 brothers and 3 sisters".

An American would say, "I grew up with 5 mothers and 3 fathers".

\*\*\*\*\*

### India is taking social distancing seriously

Citizens without masks were seen getting hard whacks on the behind by policeman with batons as punishment.

When asked if the punishment was too severe, one constable responded, "Not at all. I'm just flattening the curve".

\*\*\*\*\*

### A toothbrush journey in India Very real story....,

A Dentist was conducting a global survey-

"How long do you use your Toothbrush...?"

Chinese:  
"3 months...!"

American:  
"1 month...!!!"

Indian:  
"There is no fixed time limit doctor, it may be years...!!! Initially we use it for 'brushing' our teeth; then we use it for 'dyeing our hair, cleaning comb, cleaning ornaments, cleaning machine parts of our vehicles, cleaning the dirt in between two tiles in bathroom etc etc'. Then when there are no bristles left on the brush, still we do not throw it doctor. we start using it for pushing draw stings in our Pajamas & Petticoats!"

\*\*\*\*\*

### When traveling India one of my hostel hosts invited me for his daughters wedding

At the wedding I shortly got to talk to the bride and I commented her beautiful wedding dress. She said she was the 7th generation who got married in this dress and it was her great great great grandmother who had the dress made for her wedding back in 1882.

\*\*\*\*

### Not a joke but a real incident that happened to an indian acquaintance of mine when he moved to Australia for higher studies..

So he comes out of the airport and gets into the cab.

The Aussie cab driver asked where he is from ?

He replied 'India '.

The cab driver asked ' So did you come to die?'

He froze as it was the times when there were racial attacks by white Aussies on people of indian descent .

It was only few weeks later, he realised that the driver actually asked " Did you come today? "

\*\*\*\*

### Traffic laws:

Britain: Drive on the left side

Europe and America: Drive on the right side

India: what's a "traffic law"?

\*\*\*\*

Interviewer: Where were you born?  
Me: in India

Interviewer: oh, which part?

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

\*\*\*\*

### Johnny walks in the room and looks at his wife and says

"baby. if you were in India they would worship you"

His wife responds while blushing "does that mean I'm a goddess"

He smiles and says "no you're a cow"

\*\*\*\*

## 17 Deft Definitions!

- \***Cigarette:** A pinch of tobacco rolled in paper with fire at one end and a fool at the other!
- \***Marriage:** An agreement wherein a man loses his bachelors degree and a woman gains her masters!
- \***Conference:** The confusion of one person multiplied by the number present!
- \***Compromise:** The art of dividing a cake in such a way that everyone believes they got the biggest piece!
- \***Tears:** The hydraulic force by which masculine will-power is defeated by feminine water-power!
- \***Classic:** A book which readers praise but never read!
- \***Smile:** A curve that can set a lot of things straight!
- \***Office:** A place where you can relax after strenuous home work!
- \***Yawn:** The only time when married couples ever get a chance to open their mouths wide!
- \***Experience:** The name people give to their common mistakes!
- \***Diplomat:** A person who tells you to go to hell in such a manner that you look forward to the trip!
- \***Optimist:** A wise fellow while falling from the Eiffel Tower midway says 'See, I am not injured yet'!
- \***Miser:** A person who lives poor so that he/she could die rich!
- \***Boss:** Your senior who is early when you are late and late when you are early!
- \***Politician:** One who shakes your hand before elections and your confidence later!
- \***Doctor:** A physician or surgeon who kills your ills by pills and then kills you by his bills!
- \***Paper:** Past is a 'waste paper'! Present is a 'news paper'! Future is a 'question paper'! – A.P.J. Abdul Kalam!

*Dr. Hazel Colaso, Bandra  
(West), Mumbai.*



## Tasty savory chaklis for Diwali

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup boiled rice
- ¼ cup urad dal
- ½ cup boiled rice powder
- 1 tin coconut milk (or as required)
- 2 tsp sesame seeds
- 2 tsp cumin seeds
- 1 tsp salt

### Method:

- Wash the 1 cup rice and soak it in medium hot warm water for a minimum of one hour.
- Wash the urad dal, wipe it dry and roast and grind it to a fine powder.
- Wash the boiled rice (for powder) and roast lightly and grind to a fine powder.
- Drain the water from the rice and grind with as much coconut milk as required to a smooth paste, keeping it thick. Do not add water. Remove to a plate.
- Add the urad dal and rice powder, cumin seeds, sesame seeds and salt and mix well and knead to a smooth dough.
- Form into chaklis using the chakli mold and deep fry in hot oil till crisp and light brown. Remove and store in an airtight container when completely cool.



by Jubel D'Cruz



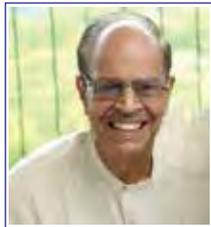
**In Christianity, the peacock is a symbol of eternal life.**

**T**he national bird of a country is a designated representative of that country's fauna. It is chosen on the basis of the unique qualities that the bird may symbolize. It should uphold certain core qualities or values of the nation it belongs to. The national bird should be a prominent feature in the cultural history of the country. Another point in favor of being chosen as the national bird is the beauty that it embodies. The indigenous nature of the bird is another point while it is being considered as the national bird. Being designated as a national symbol affords the bird a special status with increased awareness and dedicated conservation efforts.

Peafowl is a common name for three species of birds in the genera Pavo and Afropavo of the Phasianidae family, the pheasants and their allies. Male peafowl are referred to as peacocks, and female peafowl as peahens. In 1963, the peacock was declared the National Bird of India because of its rich religious and legendary involvement in Indian traditions. The criteria for this choice were many. The bird must be well-distributed within the country so it could be truly national. It must be recognizable to the common

man.

National bird of India is the Indian Peafowl commonly termed as a Peacock. Vividly colorful and exuding oodles of grace, the Indian Peafowl commands a lot of attention. The peacock and its colors are synonymous with Indian identity. It is indigenous to India and Sri Lanka, but now features in countries all over the world. Peacocks are sometimes domesticated and kept in the garden for aesthetic purposes.



C.K. Subramaniam

Threats towards the Indian peafowl arise due to the demand for the beautiful feathers to be used for decorative purposes. They are hunted and killed by poachers for meat as well. They can be a nuisance when inhabiting near farms as they prefer to feed on crop grains. They can be hunted down for the reasons stated above although that is not a common practice.

The Indian peafowl has been granted special conservation efforts owing to its status as the National Bird of India. Hunting of the national bird is illegal. Peacock symbolism: Vision, Royalty, Spirituality, Awakening, Guidance, Protection and Watchfulness. In Greek - Roman mythology the Pea-

cock tail has the eyes of the stars.

The peacock has been a prominent feature in Indian literature as its resplendent beauty is a source of inspiration for many. In popular legends, when the peacock displays its glorious plume, it's a sign of rain. They have an iconic status as a carrier animal. The peacock and its feather motifs are prominent features in Mughal architecture. The peacock and the peacock feather is still a popular motif to be used in logos, textile patterns as well as designs.

The Indian peafowls are best known for the beautifully elegant display of feathers the evolution of which is believed to be driven by sexual selection. The peacocks spread their train in the shape of a fan and quivered them during the courtship display. It is believed that the number of eye spots in a male's courtship display determines his success in mating. Peafowls are omnivorous in their feeding habit and survive on insects, seeds, fruits and even small mammals. They forage on the ground in small groups which have a single male and 3-5 females.

They roost as a group as well on the upper branches of a tall tree to escape predators. When agitated they will prefer to flee by running, rarely opting to take a flight. The males are surprisingly agile on foot despite the long train. The 'eyes' in the peacock's tail feathers symbolise the all-seeing Christian God and – in some interpretations – the Church. A peacock drinking from a vase is used as a symbol of a Christian believer drinking from the waters of eternal life. Peacocks are part and parcel of our country and we like the bird for its wisdom and colorful nature. It is rightly called the National Bird of India. Everything is connected deeply to roots and has a unique way of its origin. There is nothing without meaning. We all know about the national bird of India- Peacock and adore its beauty. Its head, neck, feathers, in fact almost every feature captures one's eye.

(Contd.. on p. 15)

The peacock's feather in all ages has been considered as a sign of beauty and knowledge, beauty because it is beautiful, knowledge because it is in the form of an eye. People keep the peacock feathers in their houses because it is believed that keeping peacock feathers at home brings good luck and prosperity in the house. The feather of the peacock has extraordinary powers, They give hypnotizing powers to the wearer. They stand for beauty, richness in life, Felicity and joy. The dark colours in it stand for sorrow, sadness and the bright colours for happiness. The eyes in the feathers are seen on both the sides, which commonly do not occur. It is very rare in nature.

The peacock is also considered to be a bird of protection and safeguarding. The feather protects one from evil eyes and destroys all negativity like anger, greed, and jealousy. They also have the power to get away from the bad influences of the planets. This bird is also valued as a protection for the psychic self. It brings harmony and joy to our mind. The peacock bird is majestic and proud, with much dramatic expression - the male bird dances for the sake of the female during courting, reminding us of the celebration in life.

Peacock feathers are vastly used in the Vastu Shastra too. It is said that the South direction represents Lord Kuber and if the feather of the peacock is kept on the southern side of the locker room where you keep your wealth, it increases in leaps and bounds. The peacock is also connected to rain. It is said to be able to foretell rain, by dancing before it pours. And, if a peacock cries more than usual, it is said to foretell the death of someone in the family.

In Christianity, the peacock is a symbol of eternal life. The Peacock symbolism represents the "all-seeing" church, along with the holiness and sanctity associated with it. Additionally, the Peacock represents resurrection, renewal and immortality within the spiritual teachings of Christianity.

## Matrimonials

**7259. USA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1994), Ht. 5' 3", Wt.70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working. Contact email :

sevu.sequeira@gmail.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 : drv2019@gmail.com

**7258. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1993), Ht. 5' 5", Wt.58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, Content Pofessional in a reputed MNC and freelancing as a copywriter ad social media Professional. Contact email : forheralliance@gmail.com

**7244. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 54 kgs, Edn. Chartered Accountant and M.Com., Employed in one of the Top reputed companies in Mumbai. Well cultured and good family background. Only Child. Contact email : fionadesouza18@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

**7243. NEW ZEALAND :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1996), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Nursing, Profession : Staff Nurse. Ready to settle in New Zealand. Contact email : sales@nomaplastechind.in

**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

**7240. PUNE :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a Finance Executive. Contact email :

angelina0134@gmail.com

**7234. MANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1993), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBBS, MD (ongoing), Doctor by profession. Contact email : samaddy2013@gmail.com

**7230. MUMBAI :** Silm, Smart, Beautiful Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1995), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Pharmaceutical Company. Contact email : alex1947@rediffmail.com

**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

**7210. AURANGABAD :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1994), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, beautiful, Coming from business family, Edn. Chartered Accountant, C.A. by Profession. Contact email : putturaurangabad@gmail.com

**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

**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

**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

# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

**7242. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MCA / MCS, working as a Software Developer. Contact email : mayapereira\_2000@yahoo.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

**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

**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 : phillipctocher@gmail.com

**7226. CANADA :** Canadian Citizen Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 59 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., in Environmental Science and in Energy Management postgraduate degrees from the University of Toronto. Working for a reputed company as Energy Management Analyst in Toronto. Contact email : francisper@gmail.com

**7241. POONA :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Post Graduation Banking and Finance, working for Bank. Contact email : matri0688@yahoo.com

**7233. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1983), Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 83 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC, IHM, IT., working as a Instrument Tech., work-

ing offshore (Rigs). Contact email : bragandcruz@rediffmail.com

**7151. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1990) Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Marketing, Working as a Asst. Marketing Executive. Contact email : emanuelfindz90@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 : francisd Souza472@gmail.com OR 00971501532702

**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

**7004. MUMBAI :** Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 90 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Inst.) MBA, working as a Sales Engineer. Contact email : amarian1988@gmail.com OR 9967657806

**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\_pE@hotmail.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

**7172. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1992) Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 90 kgs, Fair, Edn. Graduate, Diploma in Social Communications in Sophia and then done a Fellowship with

Piramal House of Leadership. Working with an NGO - sports foundation. Contact email :

florencemendonca@rediffmail.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

**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

**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.

**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

**7150. POONA :** East Indian RC Divorcee, (Born in November 1960) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 69 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate Engineer from CWIT University of Pune, working as an Engineer. Contact email : joeskf@gmail.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 : trinidad.franco@gmail.com

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# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

**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

**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

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

**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

**6860 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.M.M. (Mass Media), working for IT in MNC. Contact email : lgp1891@gmail.com

**6528. DUBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1985) Ht. 5' 7", Beautiful and Fair Complexion, Edn. Masters in Health, Care (MHA), Employed as a Manager in MNC Dubai, is looking for a suitable alliance between the ages of 32 to 36 with a height 5' 10" and above. Kindly respond directly to the party by email : aara8185@gmail.com with your photograph.

**6642 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in September 1979), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Service professional. Contact email : sav\_mon@yahoo.com

Tel.No. 8291001606

**7014. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1992), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 45 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MMS (Finance) working as a Finance Executive in Limited Company. Contact email : eva\_hpereira@rediffmail.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

**6831. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1991), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Senior Associate in Insurance Company. Contact email : denisdsouza854@gmail.com

**6871 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1989), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. Teacher by profession. Contact email :

andreaandrade310@gmail.com

**7070. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1992), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., CS., working as a Company Secretary in Private Firm. Contact email : smile9920@outlook.com

**7256. WEST BENGAL :** Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1992), Ht. 5' 2", Wt.45 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A., B.Ed., Teaching in High School. Contact email: vict.rafael@gmail.com

**7255. CANADA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1988), Ht. 5' 8", Wt.70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. CA., work in Finance with a Bank. Contact email :

javita.ad@gmail.com

**7245. BANGALORE :** Gujarati Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1985), Only Child, Ht. 5', Wt. 43 kgs,

Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 10 + 2, Architect in German Company. Well settled. Seeks a match willing to settle in Bangalore. Contact email : pmcandy1957@gmail.com

**7201. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in November 1992), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. in Electronics & Com. working as a Business Analyst. Contact email : ggd\_oman@yahoo.com

**7235. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1991), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 100 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Asst. Professor by profession. Contact email : jane21fds@gmail.com

**7177. PUNE :** Goan RC Spinster, (Born in September 1991), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Masters in Computer Applications. working for a Software MNC in Pune as a Tech Lead. Contact email : melitta88@gmail.com

**7186. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in July 1991), Ht. 5', Wt. 40 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., working for an MNC. Contact email : dyna911@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

**7181. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC 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

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# Lord Jesus Christ: Light For Diwali!

**T**here is much in the imagery of Diwali or Depavali: The Festival of lights - literally, a row of lighted depas or lamps, which evoke Holy Scripture's reflections of light and darkness. Indeed, they provide a fascinating and distinctively Indian frame – The story of God redeeming humanity through the words and works of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world!

Diwali celebrates the return of Lord Ram with his family to Ayodhya, after a 14-year exile, in which he defeated the demon-king Ravana, as recorded in the epic, Ramayana! The people of Ayodhya commemorated the joyous event by lighting oil lamps. Happy Diwali!!

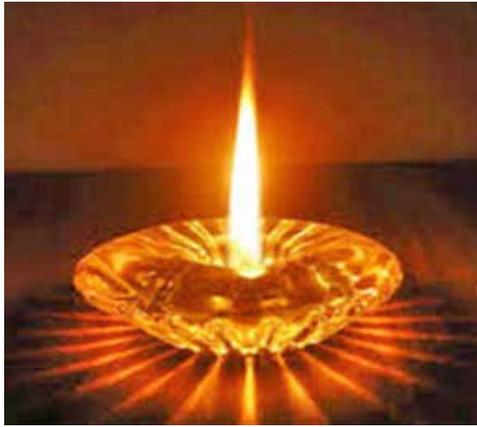
## Biblical Symbolisms!

The Bible is aglow with metaphors of light and darkness, starting from the very beginning of creation! Below are some renowned "light" sayings!

"Let there be light! God saw that the light was good, and called the light, Day!" (Genesis 1:3-5).

The heavens tell of God's glory, and the firmaments proclaim His handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech through all the earth. You are the fountain of life; in Your light we see light. Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light unto my path (Psalms 19:1-6; 36:9; 119:105).

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lightening a lamp puts it under a bushel, but on a lamp-stand; so that it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to Your Father ... The eye is a lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy your whole



body will be full of light! (Matthew 5:15-16; 6:22).

By the tender mercy of Our God, the dawn from on high will break to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death; to guide our feet into the way of peace! ... Indeed a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel (Luke 1:78-79; 2:32).

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not overcome it. And this is the judgment – that the light came into the world, but people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. (John 1:5; 3:19).

Jesus spoke, "I AM the light of the world! Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life!" Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light (John 1:5; 3:19; 8:12; 11:9; 12:35-36).

This is the message we have heard from God, and proclaim it to you: That God is Light! If we walk in the light as He Himself is light, we have fellowship with one another; and the Blood of Jesus His Son, cleanses us from all sin... But whoever says, I am in the light, while hating a brother or sister,

is in darkness. But whoever loves a brother or sister, lives in the light. (1 John 1:5-7; 2:9-10).

Therefore take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness but instead expose them. Everything exposed by the light becomes visible, and everything that becomes visible is brought to light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you!" (Ephesians 5:11-14).

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights, with Whom there is no variation or shadow due to change (James 1:17).

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people; so that you may proclaim the mighty works of God Who called you out of darkness into His 'marvelous light'! (1 Peter 2:9).

## Final Confirmation!

And the city has no need of the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its Light; and the Lamb is the Light! The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

I AM the Root and the Descendant of David. I AM the bright Morning Star! (Revelation 21:23-24; 22:16).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,  
Bandra (West), Mumbai.

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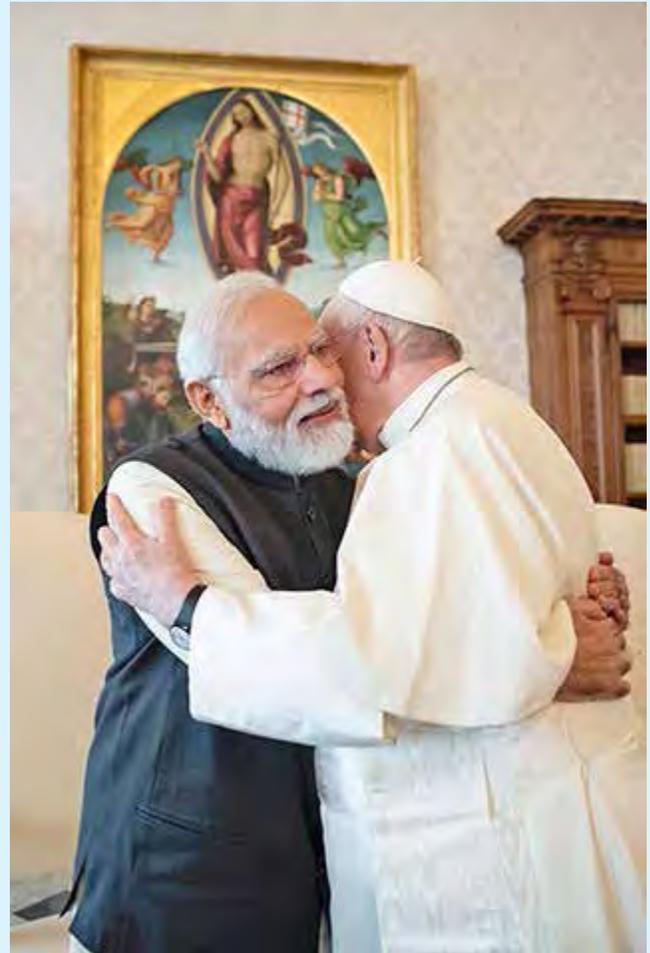
	Colour	B/W
Favours granted minimum i.e. 15 words + 1 block(1 photo of saint) each additional block	Rs. 800	Rs. 500
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Christians like this?**



## Thanksgiving



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Our Lady of Perpetual Succor and St. Anthony*

—Janet, Mangalore

## 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*



—Roland D'Souza, Dubai

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