

# THE VOICE OF DELHI

THE OFFICIAL NEWS MAGAZINE OF DELHI CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE

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**Servant of God Mother Annammal**



**16**

Cathedral Christmas Celebration



**35**

Chetanalaya-Upcycling Project

## Human fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.



# HOLY FATHER'S

PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2021

## Human fraternity

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### DESIGN CONCEPT

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1 Ashok Place, New Delhi - 110001

Tel.: (+91-11) 23343457, 23362058

Fax: (+91-11) 23746575

Email: archbishopdelhi@yahoo.co.in

Facebook: Voiceofdelhi Archdiocese Delhi

Website: www.archdiocesedelhi.com

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## FROM THE EDITOR

# Human Fraternity

FR. STANLEY KOZHICHIRA

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We are in New Year 2021. In January 2020 editorial, I had written that the year 2020 would fly like Twenty20 cricket match. The match is fast, it ends with great excitement and enthusiasm. Yes indeed the year Tewnty20 ended, but not definitely on great

note, and not at all with enthusiasm, as we were trailing, snarling through the year and mostly house bound. And now that we are entering into the new year 2021, are we going to jump from Covid to Covaxin? We are getting ready with the vaccine. But the new strand in the virus has shown up already. We are fighting against a virus, self-mutating RNA, but whether these vaccines will be effective is left again in the hands of God. Hopefully the year would bring some happy news. Turning our grim faces to some bright light.

Amidst the gloomy side of the world Holy Father went ahead with a happy news by publishing the "Fratelli Tutti" on social friendship. Archbishops has brilliantly summarised the core contents of the encyclical. He talks about giving emphasis on dialogue, which is 'The Point' in building social friendship. So Holy Father also wants us to pray this month, for Human fraternity, he says, "May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all'.

Adding to this joy is His declaration of the year 2021 as the year dedicated to St. Joseph. With his the Apostolic Letter "Patriscorde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. Surely St. Joseph who protected the Holy Family, who continues to protect the Universal church, will also continue to protect the world from all the issues that we face currently.

Let us begin the new year with a new hope and place our complete trust in the Lord. We actually have experienced the oneness of human being during this pandemic. Now let us pray together as one human family in this year for the Lord to take control of the current situation.

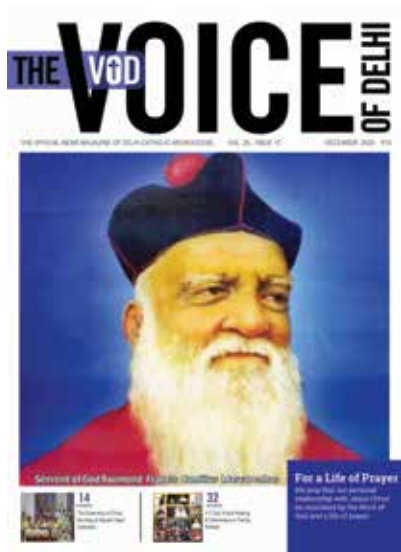
Let us always look for the silver lining in the darkest cloud in faith.

Have a blissful New Year.

Celebrate life.

# LETTERS

THANK YOU FOR WRITING TO US, WE'RE SHARING IT HERE FOR ALL TO READ!



December 2020

Father Stanley

Thanks a lot for the regular supply of VOD even in PDF format. Through the diocesan magazine I am able to know the news even in Australia.

Agnelo Miranda



## WRITE TO US

We look forward to communicating more often with our readers. Feel free to write to us, with the kind of information you would like us to include and your views on the content! Together we are the Voice of Delhi. Email: [voiceofdelhi@gmail.com](mailto:voiceofdelhi@gmail.com)

Dear Editorial Team,

Kindly send our special appreciation to Mr. Collville to the regular updating of the importance of the month, through the months musings. God Bless you.

Sheena George

Palam Vihar



To VoD,

First of all congratulations for the efforts you put towards bringing the diocesan magazines on time. I just wanted to point out a few mistakes of the last edition. There were some words in the article by Abhilasha, which seems to be used differently. Hope you would take care of this in the future.

Sr. Lalita Roshni Lakra DSA

"Mary having co-operated in our redemption with so much glory to God and so much love for us, Our Lord ordained that no one shall obtain salvation except through her intercession."

-St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori

**VOD****THE  
SHEPHERD'S  
VOICE**

# We Are All Sisters And Brothers Of One Another

**T**he negative side of Covid-19 pandemic has undoubtedly dampened our spirits but the positive side certainly lifts up our spirits. We have seen how the pandemic has united the whole world as one human family above nationalities, languages, cultures and religions. We have realized that the problems of one person are the problems of all, that we are part of one another, that we are sisters and brothers of one another, that no one is saved alone but we can only be saved together.

As we make our entry into the New Year 2021 we have for our meditation some radically profound thoughts offered to us by Pope Francis in his most recent encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* promulgated on October 3, 2020, the vigil of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, because the expression “fratelli tutti” (all are sisters and brothers) comes directly from this great saint and his radical spirituality based on the Gospel. The love that St. Francis of Assisi spoke of transcends the barriers of geography and distance; its essence consists in a fraternal openness that allows us to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person regardless of physical proximity and place of birth as well as abode.

It is Christ Our Lord who has taught us this love first and foremost, being himself God’s love incarnate. If our love for Christ is genuine it will influence all our attitudes and relationships and flow into every thought, word and deed. This is what happened with St. Francis of Assisi who was so totally immersed in Christ that nothing else could emanate from him except love, joy and peace. Wherever he went, he sowed seeds of peace and walked alongside the poor, the abandoned, the infirm and the outcast, the least of his brothers and sisters. He only wanted to spread the love of God which entails humility and complete renunciation of the desire to wield power and authority over others. He became one of the poor and sought to live in harmony with all.

The encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* articulates in eight chapters a call for all human persons to recognize and live out our common fraternity which is being threatened by the trends of today. There are many factors that are holding humanity back from the development of a universal fraternity and move towards justice, peace and unity. The Pope calls these trends the ‘dark clouds’ that are gathering over a world that is ‘closed’ – in other words trends that run contrary to seeing each other as brothers and sisters according to the vision of the Gospel.

If we look at the world today, the sense of belonging to a single human family is fading, and the dream of working together for justice and peace seems an outdated utopia as proved by tendencies such as aggressive nationalism that marginalizes sections of people in a country, throwaway culture based on feverish consumerism, economic globalization that creates more poverty and injustice than it purports to bring in prosperity, unequal distribution of wealth between the rich and the poor through exploitation of the poor, disregard for human rights and human dignity especially of women, religious persecution, disdain towards migrants, misuse of digital media for purposes contrary to moral values, etc.

Yet, despite the dark clouds which cannot be ignored, there are new paths of hope because God never ceases to sow abundant seeds of goodness in our human family. This has been proved by the Covid-19 pandemic crisis which saw hundreds of frontline warriors

putting their lives on the line for the sake of the other – doctors, nurses, pharmacists, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caretakers, transport workers, men & women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, and religious ... We began to realize that our lives are interwoven with and sustained by ordinary people valiantly shaping the decisive events of our shared history. They have epitomized the teaching of Our Lord in the parable of the 'Good Samaritan' (cf. Lk. 10:25-37) on being 'neighbour without borders' to the most vulnerable.

What is the core message of this parable in which the Lord actually sums up his entire Gospel when he says "You go, and do likewise" (Lk. 10:37). It is none other than the Great Commandment he has given us to love God with all our heart, soul and mind and our neighbour as we love ourselves (cf. Mt. 22: 35-40). The same the Lord has described, after the washing of the feet, as the 'new commandment' he has given us to love one another as he has loved us (cf. Jn. 13: 34-36). Love, the Holy Father says, is more than just a series of benevolent actions. Our love for others moves us to seek the best for their lives. It makes possible a social friendship that excludes no one and a fraternity that is open to all. It impels us towards universal communion. Hence true love calls for open societies that integrate everyone as brothers and sisters because love acknowledges the worth of every human person and his/her dignity which is a fundamental right. The radical individualism that is promoted in the world today will never lead to true liberty, equality and fraternity; it cannot make us more free, more equal, more fraternal but only pave the way for the ultimate destruction of humanity.

When we pursue the good of others and of the entire human family we help individuals and societies to mature in the moral values that foster integral human development. These values are the fruits of the Holy Spirit as described by St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians (Gal. 5:22-23). These values need to be passed on from generation to generation; otherwise what is handed down are selfishness, violence, corruption in its various

There are many factors that are holding humanity back from the development of a universal fraternity and move towards justice, peace and unity. The Pope calls these trends the 'dark clouds' that are gathering over a world that is 'closed' – in other words trends that run contrary to seeing each other as brothers and sisters according to the vision of the Gospel.

forms, indifference and, ultimately, a life closed to transcendence and entrenched in individual interests.

This brings us to the role of the family which is the first place where the values of love and fraternity, togetherness and sharing, concern and care for others are lived out and handed on as flowing from our faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Next in line come the teachers who, in their challenging task of training children and youth in schools and other settings, should be conscious that their responsibility extends also to the moral, spiritual and social aspects of life.

We have to aspire and toil for a world that provides land, housing and work for all. In order this to happen we may have to re-envision the social role of property and begin to reflect seriously on 'rights without borders'. The Holy Father is conscious that his radical thinking may sound unrealistic but he is also firmly convinced that the path to lasting peace will only be possible on the basis of a global ethic of solidarity, interdependence and cooperation in the whole human family.

A heart open to all will welcome, protect, promote and integrate the migrants and not discriminate against them. A healthy openness to the other is never a threat to one's own identity but a way to mutual cultural enrichment which is necessary to understand the inexhaustible richness of human life and even of ourselves and our native land. The achievement of this universal vision certainly demands a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good and not one that hinders the progress towards a different world. True politics will help the world to advance towards a civilization of love, a love that integrates and unites and not the other way round. Every political leader must make this principle the touchstone of his/her political genuineness.

There is one word that is indispensable in building a world of love and this word is 'dialogue'. It sums up everything contained

in approaching, speaking, listening, looking at, coming to know and understand one another, and to find common ground. Dialogue opens the door to healing of open wounds and to building peace among nations and communities. But there is also need for peace makers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.

Since much of our conflicts have to do with religious differences, the different religions, based on their respect for each human person as a creature called to be a child of God, contribute significantly to building fraternity and defending justice in society. Inter-faith dialogue is not for the sake of diplomacy but to establish friendship, peace and harmony, and to share spiritual and moral values and experiences in a spirit of truth and love.

With these sublime thoughts to inspire and guide us let us enter joyfully into 2021 determined to build a new world of liberty, equality and fraternity in every small context of our lives.

**+ Archbishop Anil Couto**

ARCHBISHOP OF DELHI

Hence true love calls for open societies that integrate everyone as brothers and sisters because love acknowledges the worth of every human person and his/her dignity which is a fundamental right. The radical individualism that is promoted in the world today will never lead to true liberty, equality and fraternity; it cannot make us more free, more equal, more fraternal but only pave the way for the ultimate destruction of humanity.



# THE WORLD WE LIVE IN – OUR COMMON HOME VI



**T**oday, there is a genuine need to emphasize that caring for the environment must be our first priority. Of course, small efforts have been made in some quarters but that’s not enough to save the earth! We need to pull together all resources of the world both human and otherwise so that we protect our ‘common home’ for future generations. In his Encyclical, *Laudato Si*, the pope himself makes some relevant suggestions to restore the pristine beauty of our common home. In the final chapter of *Laudato Si*, he speaks directly to this very local reality: our own particular lifestyles, attitudes, and convictions. As he puts it in the opening paragraph, “Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change”. In other words, Pope Francis ends this encyclical with a very challenging message –if we don’t personally change our attitudes and lives, the solutions to our global ecological crisis will never really arrive. In fact, the pope even uses traditional religious language to describe what’s most needed: an ecological conversion. What aspects of our lives need this conversion? Pope Francis begins right away with how easily we “get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending.” Rather than acting as unconscious consumers, often riddled with a feeling of emptiness and anxiety, the pope challenges us instead to adopt a lifestyle that conveys greater sobriety, namely less obsessiveness, more moderation and inner peace, and ultimately greater fulfilment. “Less is more” is a biblical *mantra*, Pope Francis even suggests. In

other words, to know Jesus might mean we seek out simpler yet far more fulfilling pleasures, like a walk in the woods or encounters with friends or enjoying the arts. Also, as we continue to participate in the economic reality of our times, Pope Francis challenges us to see every act of consuming as a moral act that involves gifts of creation (air, land, and water) and the dignity of workers and local cultures. It is this kind of awareness and the small, daily gestures that flow from it that create the “culture of care” that Pope Francis advocates transforming our world. Pope Francis ends this encyclical with an important section translating some deeply traditional aspects of our faith into relevant guidance for us to live out this Christian spirituality in our everyday lives. Two prime examples are the centrality of the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and the model of the Sabbath. The former shapes our awareness to see God through our material, created world, and the latter in carving out a day of rest and celebration to renew our relationship with our neighbour, Creation, and God. In the end, this God, whom we believe remains deeply present to us, united to our earth in love, will give us strength and light needed to find our way and “impel us to find new ways forward.” We need to heed to such prophetic voices and lend our hands generously to restore our ‘common home.’

*Epilogue:* I had asked Mr. Jose Abraham, the former editor of ‘Voice of Delhi’ in one my meetings with him, whether I could write a series of articles for our diocesan magazine, to which he had readily agreed. Unfortunately, it was not materialized. When Fr. Stanley Kozhichira took over as the new editor of Voice of Delhi, I made a similar request to him and he gladly agreed. I thank him and the editorial team for regularly publishing my articles and the readers for patiently reading them. Many readers have appreciated the contents of the articles and some have told me that those articles have gone above their heads. All the same, thank you to one and all.





## The Gifts from the Magi

The feast of the Epiphany in January, commemorates the visit of the three Kings, who followed the Star that led them to the child Jesus. This mysterious group is also known as the “Magi,” or more commonly called the “three wise men.” The word Epiphany means “manifestation” or “revelation”. So, the Three Wise Men are honoured on Epiphany because they represent the revelation of Jesus to the world.

The story of the Three Wise Men or the Magi is given in the Gospel of Matthew wherein he describes three Wise Men as those from the East. Tradition tells us that the names of the three Wise Men were Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Talk about diversity! The Three Magi, the three are of different ethnicities. There is an Armenian tradition identifying the “Magi of Bethlehem” as Balthasar of Arabia, Melchior of Persia, and Gaspar of India. It reinforces the idea, that Jesus has come for all. Race means nothing to God: what matters is one’s relationship with Him, and skin colour is a non-starter. The whole idea of Jesus is to bring us together .

The Three Wise Men were told of Christ’s birth and set off, following the Star of Bethlehem, in search of the new born child. Although they are often called the ‘Three Kings’, the Bible does not say that they were kings. The gospel however tells us that these men from the East who visited the Christ child were sages, or wise or learned. They found Jesus in the humblest of circumstances, but even in this infant, they recognized something royal, divine and saving. They saw the child Jesus, and they were conquered, overwhelmed, and overcome, by the grace and dignity of this humble child born of common parents. On seeing the child Jesus, they “fell “ before Him and offered gifts that seem quite strange to give to a baby - gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

What is the significance of the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh that these Wise Men offered to the child Jesus? It is reasoned that these gifts are symbols of who the baby was. Gold is considered a gift for a king. It represents power and wealth and a symbol of Divinity. The child Jesus is *royal and kingly*. He is the King of Kings. Frankincense is a sweet perfume which was often burned in the temple to worship God. It is a sign that Jesus would be worshipped because this baby is *God* come to earth. Myrrh was used in embalming the dead. It indicated the child’s humanity and foreshadowed his suffering and death as *Saviour* of the world. It showed that Jesus would suffer and die.

Pope Francis said the Magi’s gifts to Jesus teach us three things. “Gold “, he said means, “God must be given first place “and that we must adore him. Frankincense symbolizing our relationship with the Lord, is an invitation to “burn” some time in prayer. And Myrrh, which will be used to perfume Jesus’ dead body in the tomb, shows us the importance of helping our suffering brothers and sisters.



The Magi were willing to travel and go beyond their comfort zone. We can only imagine what they must have faced in their long journey in search of the Newborn king, and yet they were tenacious. They didn’t give up. They saw everything as a lesson and as a part of their search for the Newborn King. In this way, the Magi model the journey of faith for us. After paying homage to the new Messiah they were miraculously warned in a dream not to go back to King Herod, as he planned to kill Jesus. So, they returned to their home by an alternative route and so as not to betray him to Herod. After this the Three Kings vanish from history and not were not heard of again.

During the 4th century A.D, St. Helena, the mother of the Roman emperor Constantine, embarked on a quest to locate the sacred relics the three Kings as Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar were venerated as saints in the middle ages. The cathedral at Milan claimed to have their relics, brought from the imperial city of Constantinople in the 5th century. These relics were taken to Germany by Emperor Frederick in 1162 and are now enshrined in Cologne Cathedral. A large gilded sarcophagus was built to house these remains. This reliquary, known as the Shrine of the Three Kings, is the largest reliquary in the Western world, and even today, draws pilgrims from all over to Cologne Cathedral.

The Star of Bethlehem is the word of God which, amidst of the uncertainty of human discourses, gives us the immense splendour of the Divine Truth. The Magi saw the star in Bethlehem because they were constantly searching for something. They were *seeking*. If we keep seeking, it’s written that we will find God and He will use whatever means necessary to communicate to us, so we can hear and understand. God has blessed us richly with so many gifts. It is for us to best utilize our time, talents, and material possessions to benefit others.

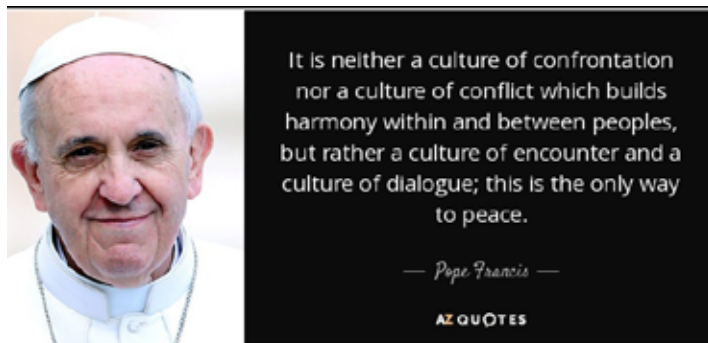


## To Foster a Culture of Encounter – A Message from *Fratelli Tutti*

In his new encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (FT – 3 October 2020), Pope Francis invites humanity to foster a 'culture of encounter' as opposed to the culture of clashes that is prevalent today. In India the word 'encounter' often brings to our mind the many instances of extrajudicial killings of 'suspected criminals or terrorists' by the police. In a positive sense, the word encounter signifies a beneficial meeting between two persons, two groups, two religions, or two cultures, which results in better understanding, more friendly relationship and increased cooperation between them.

*To speak of a "culture of encounter" means that we, as a people, should be passionate about meeting others, seeking points of contact, building bridges, planning a project that includes everyone* [FT 216]. Pope Francis constantly encourages the church to be a church that goes out to others. He emphasizes that the church should not close in on itself; it should rather take risks, go out into the world and meet with others. God is present in other people, other religions and other cultures in different ways. Therefore, when we go out and encounter others, we encounter God in new ways. We are often tempted to build a culture of walls—walls in our hearts and on our lands. The pope encourages us to move beyond the walls of our churches and our parishes in order encounter others out there. In the encounter we discover more clearly that we are all children of one God, all brothers and sisters!

As disciples of Jesus, we must imitate him who constantly crossed boundaries to encounter others. We must first encounter Jesus Christ; it will lead us out of ourselves to encounter others. In the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, the Pope presents the parable of the Good Samaritan as an example of encounter. When we become part of the culture of encounter, we do not just see but look, not just hear but listen, not just pass by wounded people but stop and wait on them. In the gospels we find that when he encountered the poor, the suffering and the oppressed, Jesus was filled with compassion. His encounters with them were marked by tenderness and fruitfulness. As in the case of Jesus, Genuine encounter with the poor and suffering people will fill us with compassion and we will be moved to



comfort them. This culture of encounter is in contrast to the 'throw away culture' or the 'culture of indifference' we see all around. *Isolation and withdrawal into one's own interests are never the way to restore hope and bring about renewal. Rather, it is closeness; it is the culture of encounter. Isolation, no; closeness, yes. Culture clash, no; culture of encounter, yes* [FT 30].

The Pope places before us the image of a polyhedron to help us appreciate the beauty of unity with differences. He says: *"I have frequently called for the growth of a culture of encounter capable of transcending our differences and divisions. This means working to create a many-faceted polyhedron whose different sides form a variegated unity, in which the whole is greater than the part"* [FT 215]. He invites the world to propagate a culture of encounter. The way to do this is through dialogue. There may be many differences between persons, cultures and religions. Yet when we learn to coexist in society in an amicable manner, it turns out to be a truly wonderful and enriching experience. We learn from each other in spite of our differences and disagreements. The Pope emphasizes the need to include those on the periphery or on the margins of society in our encounter. There is a lot that we can learn from them too, because they are able to see things from a perspective that those at the centre may not notice.

*Fratelli Tutti* invites us to create a new culture in which people are filled with a deep sense of care and concern for each other, in which people who are indifferent to each other and may be divided on the basis of various conflicting issues learn to resolve their conflicts. To cite one example close to us, the Karwan-e-Mohabbat led by social activists Harsh Mander, John Dayal and others, which aims at healing the wounds of division between different communities, is a movement which seeks to promote such a culture of encounter. The task is difficult and goal is distant. *What is important is to create processes of encounter, processes that build a people that can accept differences. Let us arm our children with the weapons of dialogue! Let us teach them to fight the good fight of the culture of encounter!* [FT 217].

## Servant of God Mother Annammal

The Foundress of the Sisters of St. Anne of Tiruchirapalli.

Fr. Arokiya Raj J

**S**ervant of God Mother Annammal is the foundress of religious congregation, the Sisters of St. Anne of Tiruchirapalli. Being a widow, she founded the congregation with nine widows on 2nd February 1858. The sole aim and unique purpose of Rev. Mother Annammal was uplifting the social status of poor, weak, marginalized and destitute young women, particularly widows from the unethical and evil forces of the society. The Congregation which was founded by her, canonically erected as a Diocesan Congregation in 1880 and elevated to Pontifical Status in 1977, has grown into a worldwide organization of Religious Women in the Catholic Church.

Mother Annammal was born in 1836 at Varaganeri in Tiruchirapalli in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. The parents of Annammal were devoted Catholic and she was brought up in staunch Catholic faith. After her elementary education in the village school, she expressed her desire and ambition to become a nun to her parents. Her parents were initially reluctant to accept the idea of their daughter to become a nun however they, conceded to her desire and ambition. At the age of 14 Annammal was admitted in a congregation in Pondicherry to become a nun. In spite of her good will, spirit, piety and obedience, she was not allowed to continue at the convent to become a nun. Because of her vicious and vibrant character, she was asked to leave the convent. She had to return home after two years of her active life in the novitiate and the convent in Pondicherry. She was not at all interested and showed no inclination to marry. However, her parents continued to persuade her to marry. Annammal finally got married at the age of 17. She started to live her married life with her husband happily which unfortunately did not last long. He died after six months of married life with Annammal. She became a widow and could not bear the painful loss of her husband within a short period. She had conceived at the time of her husband's death and that was her only consolation. As a widow, she lost all her respect and rights in her family and in the society. In the meantime, Annammal bore a girl child whom she named Teresa.

When she was at the age of 20, she inspired to become an instrument to work for the mission of God and to spread his kingdom on earth. Leaving her little daughter Teresa in the house under the care of her parents and against tradition and custom that forbade the widows to come out of their homes into the society openly, Annammal came



out boldly to break away the shackles of widowhood and face the society courageously. Annammal went about begging to give some succor to the poor and the sick in the hospital. She went to the church of Sakkiliars (cobblers), a group of people who were considered untouchable and looked down upon in the society as they belonged to the low outcast, to attend to their prayers and to mingle with them freely and brought the little children there together to instruct catechism. She started to create awareness among the young widows and appealed to them to join her to serve the poor and breaking the evil customs and orthodox conventions of the society. Because of the act, she was mocked, ridiculed subjected to severe criticism by the people of her place. However, Annammal continued her charitable work that inspired four other young widows they joined with her. She organized the four widows and they prayed together and doing service to the people of Dharmanathapuram, a slum in Tiruchirappalli

where the Sakkiliars lived. They taught religious truth and prayed with them and helped them begging. They cared and nursed the sick and old at homes and in the hospital and prayed for them. Soon the people of the town started to appreciate Annammal and her companions for their work and service to the poor. The missionaries working in Tiruchirappalli and the entire mission also came to know of their service.

Inspite of the success in her service to the poor and the oppressed, Annammal thought of nothing else but a convent for the widows. She along with the four widows approached the then Bishop Alexis Canoz and requested to permit them to form into a community and establish a convent for themselves. Bishop Alexis Canoz explained to her the financial and other difficulties to start a convent in Tiruchirappalli. Annammal promised that she would never ask any financial support the Bishop and stated that "no money but only the permission". Bishop was greatly impressed by her request and finally gave her permission. Thus, the convent for widows was established in Tiruchirappalli on 2 February 1858. Mgr. Alexis Conoz named it, the Congregation of St. Anne for widows under the patronage of St. Anne. Annammal sowed the seed for founding the congregation for widows for liberating them from the shackles of inhuman and irrational evil customs and social practices and for empowering them. Annammal and her companions supported themselves and to the poor by what little they earned by pinning of paddy. They never hesitated for any hard work and prepared for any sacrifice. Mother Annammal worked hard since 1877 to rejuvenate and direct the congregation into the right direction. She was seriously ill in 1883 and died on 8 June 1883 at the age of 47. She was declared Servant of God on 22nd April 2017.

*Servant of God Mother Annammal, Pray for us.*

## YOUTH CORNER

### Dear Fear, Get Out of Here.

Nikhil George

Fear.

You stop me when I am on my way.

You come knocking on my door when I beginning to step out. You chase me around.

Many times, you bring me to my knees.

Fear.

Of not being good enough.

Of falling short.

Of being laughed at.

Of being ridiculed.

Of being judged.

Of being disrespected.

Of not being accepted.

Of being different.

Of being a hypocrite.

Of being too loud.

Of being too silent.

Of being too slow.

Of being too fast.

The fear of yesterday.

The fear of tomorrow.

But He's got my back.

The one who was laughed at.

Who was spat on.

Who was ridiculed.

Who was mocked.

Who was disrespected.

Who was slapped.

Who was nailed.

Who was stripped.

Who was killed.

Who rose again.

Who defeated it all.

With His Word.

With His love.

With His life.

I know, I am in safe hands.

Fear may come in my way.

But I just need to let my refuge takeover.

His peace wash over.

His joy spill over.

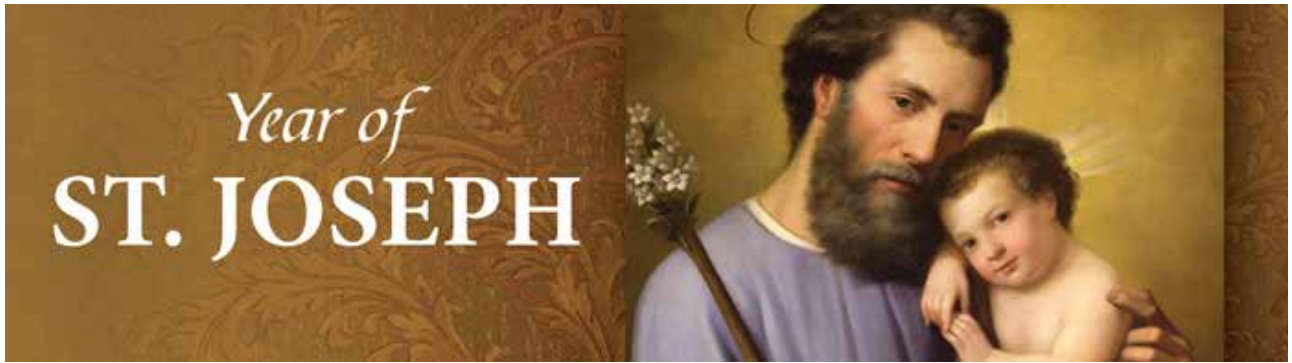
With Him on my side, I know I can say,

**"Dear Fear, get out of here!"**





POULOSE MANGAI, SJ



**O**n December 8 Pope Francis surprised us with the proclamation of the **Year of St. Joseph** from 8 Dec 2020 – 8 Dec 2021. The special Year will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX on 8 December 1870. According to the Vatican decree, the Year was proclaimed “in order to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custos (Guardian) of Jesus.”

On the occasion Pope Francis has written for us an Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“with a father’s heart”). The Pope begins the Letter by saying that **WITH A FATHER’S HEART**, St. Joseph loved Jesus. He quotes the memorable words of Pope St. Paul VI, who pointed out that St. Joseph concretely expressed his fatherhood “by making his life a sacrificial service to the mystery of the incarnation and its redemptive purpose. ... He turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home.” These words actually way sums up the role he played in God’s plan of salvation. The Pope offers some beautiful and inspiring reflections on St. Joseph, some of which are presented below.

1. *A beloved father:* St. Joseph is a beloved father and the Christians have always venerated him as a father.
2. *A tender and loving father:* St. Joseph was a tender and loving father to Jesus who saw in him the tender love of God. He teaches us that faith in God includes believing that God can work even through our fears and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course.
3. *An obedient father.* “When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (Mt 1:24). St. Joseph was always obedient to God whatever the hardship involved. In every situation, Joseph declared his own “fiat”,

like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

4. *An accepting father:* Joseph always accepted God’s plan for him. He accepted Mary unconditionally, trusting in the angel’s words. He set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and make them part of his own history.
5. *A creatively courageous father:* St. Joseph was the man chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. God acted by trusting in Joseph’s creative courage. Several times the Gospel tells us that Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and did what God commanded him (Mt 1:24; 2:14, 21).
6. *A working father:* Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one’s own labour. The Pope asks us to pray to Saint Joseph the Worker so that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work.
7. *A father in the shadows:* In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him Joseph never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus. He found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. Our world today needs fathers like Joseph, not tyrants.

The Pope hopes that this Apostolic Letter will increase our love for this great saint and encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal. He concludes it with a short prayer to St. Joseph: *Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

# PARISH ROUNDUP

## ASHOK PLACE

### Sacred Heart Cathedral

Parish Priest: Fr. Lawrence P. R

Asst. Parish Priest: Fr. John Britto Xavier

Asst. Parish Priest: Fr. Shinil Jacob

Asst. Parish Priest: Fr Aroykia Raj

## Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination of Rev Fr. Alphonse Shah

R. Nihal Pedric



On 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, Rev. Fr Alphonse Shah, celebrated his Silver Jubilee Ordination Anniversary. On this occasion, the Sacred Heart Cathedral Community felicitated him during the 9.00 am English Mass. Fr. Alphonse Shah was the main celebrant of the mass which was concelebrated by Msgr. Susai Sebastian, Fr, Jervis, Fr. Vincent D' Souza, Fr Lawrence PR, Fr. Sabu Joseph and Fr. Sebastian. Immediately after the mass Rev. Fr Alphonse Shah, the silver jubilarian was felicitated by the Cathedral Parish with a shawl and he was presented a live plant as a token of love and appreciation for his services to the Archdiocese of Delhi. During his thanksgiving speech, Fr. Alphonse thanked the Lord for having chosen him as a worthy person to serve in his vineyard. He thanked his brothers, parents and Archbishop Angelo, Archbishop Alan, Archbishop Vincent and Archbishop Anil who were instrumental in one way or other for his vocation. Further, he has thanked all the priests in the clergy home, in the Parish and in the campus and the Parishioners for making this day commendable. Immediately after the Holy Eucharist, Fr Alphonse cut a cake outside the Church where he was surrounded by concelebrants and lay faithful wishing him for his Jubilee Ordination Anniversary. Fr Alphonse Shah was born on 06<sup>th</sup> January, 1963 at Allahabad to Mr Raphael and Mrs Bernadette Shah. He

is the eldest among three brothers. Fr. Alphonse joined St. Paul Minor Seminary, Lucknow in 1982. He did his philosophy from St. Charles Seminary, Nagpur between 1985 and 1988. He completed his Theology from Papal Seminary, Pune from 1992-1995. He was ordained as a Priest for the Archdiocese of Delhi on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1995. He served as an Assistant in St. Thomas Church, R. K. Puram. Thereafter he went to Rome for higher studies in 1997. He has also served as a Parish Priest in Divine Mercy Church, Pitampura from 2005-2008. He rendered his service as a Staff at Holy Trinity Major Seminary, Jalandhar from 2008-2015 and thereafter continued as the Rector of Holy Trinity Seminary till 2019. From 2019 he has been the in-charge of Clergy home.



## Felicitation of Fr. Ajeet Patrick on his birthday

R. Nihal Pedric



**F**r. Ajeet Patrick, Secretary to Archbishop has celebrated his birthday on the 05<sup>th</sup> December, 2020. On this occasion, on 06<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, during the 10.30 am Hindi Mass, he was felicitated by the Cathedral Community. A brief profile of Fr. Ajeet Patrick was read by Mrs Catherine Toppo, Vice President of the Catholic Association. He was presented a live plant by Sister Nesam, Member of the Sacred Heart Parish Council. A shawl has also been presented to him by Mr. Manish, Joint Secretary of the Catholic Association. Immediately after the mass, Fr. Ajeet Patrick cut the cake when the people assembled there sang Happy Birthday. Fr. Ajeet Patrick was born on 05<sup>th</sup> December, 1986 at Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh. His parents are Mr Patrick and Mrs Sonia. He has four siblings and he is the youngest among the four. Fr. Ajeet joined Vinay Gurukul Minor Seminary, Lucknow in 2006. He did his philosophy in St. Charles Seminary, Nagpur from 2009-2011. His Regency was in Maria Manzil School-Nuh, Vinay Gurukul Minor Seminary and St. Thomas Church between 2011 and 2014. From Vidyajyoti College, Delhi, he did his Theology from 2014-2017. His Diaconate Ministry was in St. John Marie Vianney Church and Rosary School, Narela. He was ordained as a Priest for the Archdiocese of Delhi on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. Thereafter he has served as an Assistant in Nuh Mission and as an Assistant Manager at Maria Manzil School. He was appointed as the Secretary to Archbishop from 2019. Since then, he has been rendering his services as Editor of Dili Vani, Director of Kripa Satsang, Director of Altar Servers Association. He is also the Spiritual Director of the New Delhi Area Council as well as the Sacred Heart Cathedral Conference of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul.



## Socially-Distanced Christmas Celebrations at Sacred Heart Cathedral

R. Nihal Pedric



This year the Christmas celebrations at the Sacred Heart Cathedral was a different one. The celebration of ‘togetherness’ was missing as only very limited number of people were able to participate in the services. Every year during Christmas, the Cathedral compound would abuzz with people thronging from all over Delhi and even from neighboring States to pay homage to the Baby Jesus. But this year due to Covid-19 Pandemic, and the restrictions imposed on large gatherings, the midnight mass which has always been the highpoint of Christmas celebrations with carols and other activities had to be cancelled. However, the entire Cathedral Compound was decorated, illuminated with lights and Christmas Tree as usual. Christmas was celebrated with the same spiritual joy as before but the presence of large gatherings in the Cathedral Compound was missing. Perhaps this may be the first time in the history of the Archdiocese of Delhi that all of us have missed the midnight service on Christmas eve. In the Cathedral, only very limited number of people were allowed and the entry was restricted through online registration. All the entry points to the Cathedral were closed from 24<sup>th</sup> evening till 26<sup>th</sup> Morning. Only those who had registered online for attending the masses were allowed to enter from Bhai Veer Sing Marg. Instead of the midnight service, arrangements have been made for two anticipated masses in Hindi and English in the evening on 24<sup>th</sup> December. The Hindi anticipated mass was celebrated by Fr. Ajeet Patrick at 6.00 pm. Most Rev. Archbishop Anil JT Couto was the main celebrant for the 8.00 pm Mass in English. On Christmas Day four services were held in the morning at Cathedral for limited number of registered members. All the Christmas services were streamed online via social media for the benefit of those who were unable to attend the services due to various reasons. Christmas 2020 will be remembered by everyone as the first-ever socially-distanced Christmas.





## ALAKNANDA

Holy Spirit Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Jesu Raj

Asst. Parish Priest: Fr. Mukesh Damor

# Parish Council Meeting 2020

Catherine Jojo

Secretary – Parish Council

This year due to pandemic, social meetings and gatherings had been temporarily shelved. But as time progressed people have started following sanitization and social distancing protocols and have adapted to the new-normal routine. Churches have opened following government guidelines. With all this we had our first in – person Parish council meet on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 2020 in the church premises. All the parish council members actively participated in deciding on Christmas 2020 and New Year 2021 preparations. New ideas of Online Carol competitions and Fancy dress Competitions were put forward. Everyone in the church geared up to participate in preparations and completion.

# International Day For Elimination Of Violence Against Women

Catherine Jojo

International day for elimination of violence against women was celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2020. On this day Women Council of our parish animated the Holy Mass presided over by Rev Fr. Jesuraj and Rev Fr. Mukesh. All women were dressed in orange and held orange badges as symbol in observance of this day. Prior to this day, Women council conducted poster making and slogan writing completion, where all children of the parish displayed their artistic skills. And not to miss, there was a beautiful video compiled by Sharon collating all the posters and slogans, which was telecast in church on this day.

Further, a Say No To Violence contest was organised by the Women Commission, as a part of UN Observance-International Day for Elimination of violence against Women. Our parish participated and entries were sent by Women Council. We have three budding talents who won prizes. We congratulate the winners – Jennifer Tresa Titus (Second position), Jerald Joven (Third position) and Anne Lisa Augustine (Consolation).

We extend our appreciation towards the great work Women Council is putting in collaboration with Youth, Catechism teachers and other members.

In this pandemic let's stay united and work towards the mission that Jesus started.



**R.K PURAM**

**St. Thomas Church**

Parish Priest: Fr. Maria Susai

Asst. Parish Priest: Fr. Jardis Nazareth

Asst. Parish Priest: Fr. Geo Jacob

# Christmas at R.K. Puram

Rose Mary

**W**e, the parishioners of St. Thomas Church celebrated Christmas in a special way. This time the physical participation in the Eucharistic celebration was made possible SCC wise. All together we had four services. On 24<sup>th</sup> evening and 25<sup>th</sup> morning we had two celebrations each. The whole parish community was divided into four groups which consisted of SCC groups. The Presidents of the area prepared the list of the parishioners who would be participating in each mass. Others participated in the online service. Everyone reached the church well in advance and followed COVID-19 protocol strictly. Everything was well organized to make the participation and celebration spiritually meaningful. Rev. Frs. Maria Susai and Geo Jacob celebrated the Eucharist. The liturgy focused on the theme love, forgiveness and oneness. Fr. Maria Susai reminded everyone to see Jesus in the poor and downtrodden. At the end, Fr. Maria Susai thanked all the people who worked for the success of the Christmas celebration. Members of the PPC, office bearers of various associations, Presidents of the SCC units, choir for their lively and melodious singing, Wg Cdr Dr. Rajni Verma for providing flowers for altar decorations, Mr. William Joseph for taking care of the church and sacristans Mr. Paul Nathan. The parish community thanked Rev. Fr. Maria Susai for his excellent way of planning, which is really effective for the community.



# Flying Officer Jubin Stephen Honoured

Rose Mary



**M**r. Jubin Stephen, S/o Mrs & Mr. Stephen, our parishioner, was honoured on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020. After completing his school education from Mount Carmel School, Jubin has joined National Defence Academy, Pune. He has completed three years training there. He joined the Airforce Academy, Hyderabad for further training. Now, he is a Flying officer. The parish community is proud of him.



# Mass for Catechism children on the feast of the Holy Family

Rose Mary

**O**n the feast of Holy Family, 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020 a special mass was celebrated for our catechism children. Students above 10 years with their parents participated in the Eucharistic celebration. Rev. Fr. Maria Susai began the mass with the quote from the book of Isiah, "Come back unto me; I have chosen my people". Fr. Geo said that if God is present in a family, that becomes a Holy Family. He reminded everyone to spend more time with families and reduce the time they spend with electronic devices. Children participated in the offertory procession and offered themselves to the Lord. At the end, the winners of the Archdiocesan Bible quiz and inter parish online competition were honoured by the parish community.

Refreshments were served to the children. It was a spiritual experience for everyone.



**PRASAD NAGAR****St. Michael's Church**

Parish Priest: Fr. Balraj Lourduswamy

Asstt. Parish Priest: Fr. Balaraju Anthonyswamy

# Christmas Celebrations

C.M. Thomas

Despite the fact that the COVID-19 restrictions and regulations in place and the chilling cold, the faithful of St. Michael's Church, Prasad Nagar celebrated Christmas, the birth of child Jesus Christ enthusiastically. The entire church was decorated beautifully and illuminated with colourful and fascinating lights. As a preparation for the Christmas, we had confessions on three days enabling the parishioners to have the sacrament of reconciliation.

**EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION:** In order to have more coverage of participation of faithful in the solemn Christmas

Services we had scheduled nine Holy Masses - SIX Holy Masses on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 starting from 7.00 p m. onwards one after one. Similarly, we had three Eucharistic celebration on 25<sup>th</sup> morning starting from 7.30 a.m. onwards. The Holy Masses were celebrated one by one by Rev. Frs: Balraj Lourduswamy, Balaraju Anthonyswamy and Joseph Elamthuruthy. The Eucharistic celebration went on in a very prayerful atmosphere followed by homily enlightening on the birth of child Jesus. A large number of faithful took part in the Holy Masses maintaining the COVID-19 protocol. Choir headed by Christophers ( Sanjay and Sheetal ) sang hymns melodiously and devotionally making a feeling of heavenly atmosphere. The solemn Christmas Services were streamed through YouTube to enable the aged and children to view and watch.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING:** Even though we could not conduct door-to-door Carol singing in our parish due to COVID-19, we had Carol singing Online on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 with YouTube facility to enable the parishioners to watch. Different groups rendered melodious and mind-blowing Christmas Carol songs ushering in an atmosphere of joy and happiness.

**CHRISTMAS CRIB:** Christmas without a crib, one cannot think of! As a part of celebration, we had a huge Crib placed in the church campus facing the Main Road which was indeed an amazing attraction to one and all including the local folks around who keenly and earnestly wanted to have a glimpse of it. The spirit of making CRIB at home did not lag behind. The parishioners made very creative cribs that received appreciation and applause from one and all.

On this joyful Christmas day, Rev Frs. wished each and everyone the blessings of the season of this Feast Of Christmas. After the church announcement, Rev. Fr. Balraj Lourduswamy, Parish Priest thanked the Religious Sisters, Parish Council Members, Choir, Mahila Sangh, Delhi Police and all those who collaborated and helped in making the Solemn Christmas Services / Celebrations joyful and memorable.



# “Helpers of Jesus” bring good news to Church of the Resurrection

Leelamma John

On 29<sup>th</sup> November, Sunday, all the Parishioners were rejoicing as their Most Rev. Archbishop Anil J.T. Couto visited them during the pandemic and blessed them with the priceless gifts of four sisters who belong to the society of ‘Helpers of Jesus’ from the archdiocese of Mumbai.

1. Sr. Rachel Lahoria (Superior)
2. Sr. Shashikala Tirkey
3. Sr. Saroj Lakra
4. Sr. Anisha Kujur

On behalf of the parishioners, Mr. Austin Bernard and Ms. Gloria Antony extended a warm welcome to Most Rev. Archbishop Anil Couto and his secretary Rev. Fr. Ajeet Patrick, with a bouquet of flowers.



It was indeed a great privilege for Rohini Parish to have Archbishop Anil Couto concelebrating the Eucharist with Fr. Ajeet Patrick and Fr. Ivan Madtha, the Parish Priest.

Before the final blessing of the Eucharist, Archbishop Anil Couto welcomed the four sisters of the Society of "Helpers of Jesus" to be part of the Rohini Parish and render their service to the church. The parishioners were overjoyed at the announcement of the arrival of sisters.

These sisters belong to the society of ‘Helpers of Jesus’. It is a charitable organization founded by Sr. Martha Mondal in the year 1999 at Mumbai and registered under the name of ‘Sneha Sagar Society Trust’ on 31 March 2001. They work for the Least, the Lost and the Last. Their service include caring for the poor and needy, rehabilitating handicapped children, looking after the orphans, HIV positive children and caring for the destitute women. The women are given non formal education in the areas of childcare, family, health and hygiene and human rights and empowering women from the marginalized sections of the society. They are also involved in the pastoral ministry by working in the parishes through children, youth and involvement in SCC, Catechetical work, individual and family counselling etc.

The parishioners wish the sisters all the very best. May they experience the loving support from them. Rev. Fr. Ivan Madtha thanked Most Rev. Archbishop Anil Couto and his secretary Rev. Fr. Ajeet Patrick for their visit and the blessings received.

**HAUZ KHAS**

**Good Shepherd Church**

Parish Priest: Fr. James Peter Raj

Asst. Parish Priest: Fr. Balraju Philomin

# Joy to the World

Rose Mary Peter

*“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulder. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”,* Isaiah 9:6

**C**hristmas time in this Pandemic brought less enthusiasm, for the worldly spirits not high, the carols not very joyful as the choir members could not have enough Choir practice due to COVID – 19, no cake, no coffee, no bid parties, no big gatherings, no carol singing etc, despite all these drawbacks, the Spiritual celebration of Christmas was very high in Good Shepherd, Hauz Khas.

The Altar was beautifully decorated by our three Convent Sisters always adding to our spiritual needs. The Main Celebrant for the Night Vigil Service was Rev Fr. Jais Assariparambil, whose beautiful sermon added much flavor to our Spiritual aspirations. Fr. Jais started his sermon with the word Pandemic and wear your Mask. Fr. Jais laid emphasis that in the entire bible almost more than 365 times we often hear and read “Do Not be Afraid”, hence he encouraged all of us that during this Pandemic we should not be afraid of the Virus, but be afraid of the elements that take you away from the Kingdom of God, have faith in God, trust him whole heartedly. Take adequate precautions abide by the rules. Try to live a simple and pure life like Jesus, avoid any small type of lie, because one tiny lie can spread danger in anyone’s life. The road to Jesus is long narrow and steep the road to worldly life is just fun and merry making, we all should be like Shepherds who came to see Baby Jesus first and imbibe his teachings and lead a disciplined life.

Fr. James and Fr. Balraj took adequate steps to follow the rules of Delhi Government and ensured that everything should go on smoothly. We had 150 participants inside the Church, the Church was closed after the entry of 150 persons for others Fr. Balraj celebrated the Mass at the Parish Hall at the third floor we had another 150 members. Altogether we had three Masses and carol singing one in English at 6 pm and the other two in Hindi at 8.00 pm on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec and two Mass one in Hindi at 8.30 am and in English at 10.30 am on 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. For the first time in this history of our parish we did not have a bilingual Christmas Mid Night Vigil service due to Pandemic. The Lord is trying to teach us during this Pandemic, we all should have deep faith in God, remain in prayers and look after your spiritual needs through Bible reading reflection attending Holy Mass and Eucharistic Service and our Lord Jesus Christ will take care of us, have good diet increase your immunity. Let’s all stay safe and healthy.

Merry Christmas and very Happy New Year 2021. May God bless all of us.



# *Christmas - A reason for hope during the Covid Season*

“HOPE. Its’ the one thing you and I cannot live without.” CHARLES SWINDOLL

‘The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them, a light has dawned.’ [Isaiah 9:2]

When we look around our world today, hope seems to be in short supply. Sometimes we feel hopeless about life – about everything in life – including the present situation of COVID 19. Unfortunately, the root cause of all this is the ‘hopelessness when it comes to our faith’.

The Christian Hope

A Christian’s definition of hope is not the ‘hope’ of the kind implied in statements like, ‘I hope my favourite team wins the cricket match’ or ‘I hope I get a promotion’. Here we are not sure whether the event that we await will eventually happen or not. The BIBLICAL HOPE is not a ‘hope-so’, but it is a ‘know-so’. That is, you absolutely know that whatever you hope for, will happen for sure. To have a Biblical hope is to have Jesus as the sure anchor of our soul.

Even if there are many reasons to be afraid and to live in despair, the history of the Church shows us clearly how Christians have time and again found consolation in the Good News of the birth of the saviour in Bethlehem.

Closely similar historical backgrounds reinforce the hope

There is an amazing degree of correspondence between the socio-politico-economic background in which the Messiah chose to take birth and the predicament that the world is currently in.

As much as an economic and social disaster has the Covid-19 so far been, as was the social upheaval and discontent during the time of Jesus’ birth. This would amazingly mirror the regular manifestations of tensions in the current society--something that existed even before the disastrous outbreak of the pandemic-- in face of rising inequalities all around. The deadly virus only precipitated its culmination.

That the Messiah heralded His arrival in a grim socio-cultural background should give the faithful profound hope that, what follows the current terrible material comeuppance will be an elevating spiritual (and perhaps material) revival. Shouldn’t the devastating--yet ephemeral in terms of impact-- pandemic raise hopes of a spiritual renaissance and realization across the globe, one that at least fractionally echo the spiritual renaissance that Jesus heralded 2000 years back?

Muted celebrations and Constraints have a purifying role and engender hope

Jesus deliberately avoided a prestigious living environment specifically to constrain himself, to feel one with the poor and the oppressed, and above all, to demonstrate that there is pleasure in being constrained. The flair of Christmas celebrations around the world this year may have been different from the previous ones, because of physical distancing and safety measures brought on to protect ourselves from the pandemic. COVID 19 has torn the social fabric everywhere by causing havoc in various walks of life. Apart from the high death rate and the difficulty in getting medical attention, the current pandemic has created an economic downturn that has affected the people from all strata of the society

The pandemic has also imposed untold miseries to some of our fellow-beings who lost their dear and near ones. People have had to sacrifice a fair degree of their functional freedom, mobility, get-togethers and routine pleasures. We get irritated and pained by its impact. However, the most relevant message of Christmas is that there is pleasure in being constrained. Set against the Christmas context, the pandemic has a spiritually purifying role.

With the first Advent of Christ over 2000 years ago, the Father gave a ray of hope to the disgruntled mankind. On that night in Bethlehem, ‘HOPE’ was born into the world at the first cry of a baby; which brought relief to all the problems of humanity, including the greatest problem man has ever faced, ‘How can a sinful man reconcile himself with the Holy God?’. God would have to become man in order for such a miracle to happen and Jesus Christ, the second person of the Godhead would be willing to be born, live and die so that we might be saved forever. Because of this,

We DO have hope this Christmas season! HOPE has a name; BABY JESUS!

We should propagate the Hope that Christmas encompasses

No one doubts the fact that COVID 19 is one of the extremely serious threats the world has ever faced. At the same time, we should never lose sight of the positive changes that occurred during this period.

- (a) The pandemic made the world witness a great surge in community spirit. Amidst the confusion and anxiety, there are strong signs of hope and solidarity, an increasing sense of togetherness and compassion.
- (a) The COVID 19 has sensitised millions of people about many aspects of communicable diseases, modes of transmission of pathogens and safety measures such as sanitation and hygiene, social distancing, respiratory etiquette, waste disposal and clinical management pathway at the community level. These constraints will purify us through the introspection about our innumerable limitations, and lead us to a higher spiritual dimension of life.
- (b) Baby Jesus had a pristine life with a lot of time with his parents. Going by the Baby Jesus’ example, our children have benefitted from more time with their parents and regular daily patterns of meal, studies and learning, as well as bed time.

When we embrace the fact that no matter what we face in life, Jesus loves us and walks with us, nothing will rob us off our hope. “And this too shall pass”. Regardless of how difficult the current situation is, and how it has dealt with us in life, it will soon pass. During this Christmas, let us present our concerns to Baby Jesus in the manger. Let us lay our burdens at his feet. Let him carry our load and relieve us.

HAVE HOPE - JESUS LOVES US.

# SCHOOL SNIPPETS

## KHERI MANAJAT

**Rosary Sr Sec School**

Manager: Fr. Savariraj

Headmistress: Sr. Vincy

### “Peace on Earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day”

Mr. P. Antony

**C**hristmas means Feast day of Christ”. It is a yearly celebration of commemorating Jesus Christ’s birth. It is observed on 25<sup>th</sup> December as a Christian cultural and religious celebration over the world.

On the serene morning of 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020, Christmas was celebrated at Rosary Sr. Sec. School,

Kheri Manajat with the offering of the Holy Eucharist by Rev. Fr. Savariraj Augustine. The Holy Eucharist was offered with the intention of the welfare of the institution, teachers, students and parents.

Sisters and all the teachers including the non-Christian teachers participated in the Eucharist devotedly. The Holy Eucharist with the special intercessory prayers, nourished the hearts and minds of each and everyone.

After the Holy Eucharist, a short cultural program was presented by the staff of the school. The program was graced by Rev. Fr. Savariraj Augustine, the Manager of Rosary Sr. Sec. School, Kheri Manajat and principal of Rosary School, Narela and Rev. Sr. Jaya. It commenced with a graceful prayer dance performed by our dear teachers, which invoked the blessings of God Almighty. Thereafter, a stunning short speech on ‘Christmas’ was delivered by Mrs. Seema, which emphasised the meaning of celebrating Christmas and the wonderful way of God making human as the channel of His love. After the speech, a spectacular crib was blessed by Rev. Fr. Savariraj Augustine. The crib was expediently made by the Rosarians. The teachers presented the melodious Christmas carols to baby Jesus during the blessing of the crib.





A play on 'The Birth of Jesus' was enacted by the teachers, which not only elaborated the birth of Jesus but also brought out the crisis of the present situations and made a great impact on each and everyone on how to become the channels of God's love in his lives. The play began with the introduction to the birth of Jesus tracing back to the History of 2000 years ago and went on to the birth of Jesus Christ and concluded with the thought provoking message of 'Christ is born let's reach out the people and make them experience His love and care'. We, the Rosarians made a unique attempt to present the birth of Jesus in connection to the crisis of the present scenario such as COVID-19, unemployment and poverty.

Thence, the teachers came out with their special Christmas carols, the beats of the carols and their fervent participation made a remarkable impact. After that, we had an inspiring and a thought provoking speech by Rev. Fr. Savariraj Augustine. He has enlightened us with his knowledge from the verses of the Holy Bible and highlighted the meaning of the birth of Jesus through various virtues such as, kindness, compassion, gentleness, humility, sacrifice and obedience. He also insisted us to have faith in God in all the situations.

After the chief guest's speech, there was a dance performance on a song 'Jhumo Naacho khushi se aaj' by the teachers. The mesmerising moves of the teachers captured everyone's mind. As the Rosarians are well known for their gratitude, Mrs. Bhawana extended a profound sense of gratitude to each & everyone and brought the program to an end.

Obviously, without a grand meala celebration is incomplete; therefore, a scrumptious meal was blessed by Fr. Savariraj Augustine and everyone dined happily humming the Christmas carols.

"Christmas is not a date. It is a state of mind".



## HAUZKHAS

Sahoday Sr. Sec. School  
 Manager : Fr. James Peter Raj  
 Principal: Sr Joyce Fernandes

# Sahoday Introduces Constitution Classes

Ms. Shivani

*"Constitution is not a mere document, it is a vehicle of life, and its spirit is always the spirit of age"* – Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

The existence and successful survival of democracy in such diverse conditions is the most celebrated fact about our country and our Constitution is its backbone. On the occasion of 71st Constitution Day, Sahoday Sr. Sec. School started with the Constitution Classes for the students of classes VIII to XII.

Through these classes, students were made aware about the journey of our Constitution since its inception. Students were delighted to see the original copy of the Indian Constitution. This was accompanied by documentaries of the mock debates and interactive sessions which brought a whole new perspective of the Constitution into their young minds. They were amazed to see that how different concepts and laws in the Indian constitution are inspired by the constitution of other countries yet they seem so appropriate for the Indian diverse society. Activities like Preamble reading and making Preamble of our school were conducted under the guidance of their respective teachers. Overall students participated with full excitement and enthusiasm to make the constitutional classes a successful one.



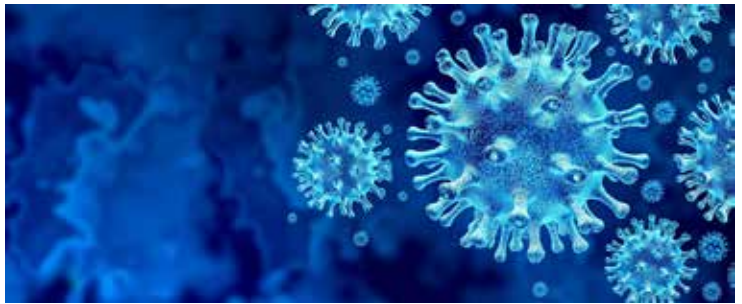


This initiative would not have been possible without the help, advice and support of our Manager Rev. Fr. James Peter Raj and our Principal Rev. Sr. Joyce. Our school will surely continue with these classes as we believe that it will help the students to appreciate Indian philosophy, recognize their rights and duties and will help them to become better and aware citizens.

## Sahoday Fights Corona Virus

Ms. Ravinder

The world had just welcomed 2020 – the year that sounded so cool, that the news about a virus attack on Chinese city of Wuhan was making the headlines. Little did we know that one day this deadly virus would engulf the globe in less than a month.



Life is filled with uncertainty but our human mindset gets tuned to cope with the most difficult circumstances and facing the unknown. Under this highlighted uncertainty we have found ways to keep a balance. Our students are undergoing lot of upheavals and feel overwhelmed by uncertainty...They are missing their friends, they are missing their routine activities, they are missing each other, they are missing a life they once called 'normal'. The role of teachers thus becomes very crucial as they have to act as a learning facilitator of young minds and also help the children cope with the mental agony and frustrations related to it.

Sahoday decided to help the student community to cope with present circumstances and take precautions not to fall into the high risk bracket.

Teachers feel motivated only when the Manager and the Principal show confidence in their abilities and capabilities. Rev Fr. James Peter Raj, our Manager and Rev Sr. Joyce, our Principal had stood behind their teachers like a rock. All the endeavours were taken up by the school are done under their guidance, keeping in mind the welfare of the students and their families.

Corona virus is like an unseen enemy, a danger that looms over everyone's head! The best way to beat the enemy is to keep your guard really strong.

Webinars conducted by the school have helped the students to deal with this crisis in a better way. The school held a webinar for students by inviting the eminent personality Rev. Fr. Rajkumar SJ, Professor of Vidya Jyoti for class V to VIII on 21<sup>st</sup> of November for the parents and students apprising them with some crucial information about the ways to protect ourselves. Information regarding how the virus spreads and how it can be prevented was imparted. They were filled with positive energy to trust in the protective hand of God.

Another webinar was held on same day by Fr Valan SJ Scripture Professor from Vidya faculty that dealt with coping with the emotions. Fr Valan SJ communicated in a very detailed way how the young Sahodians could cope up with emotional ups and downs. Father just hit the nail on the head when he addressed the issues faced by children these days. Wonderful suggestions were given which appealed to the students!

The undaunted support of our Manager and our Principal will help us to sail through this storm. Together we can overcome all the difficulties as

“This too shall pass!”

## MAYUR VIHAR PHASE III

St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School

Manager : Rev. Fr. Jose T.J

Principal: Rev. Sr. Merlin C J

# Constitution Day Assembly

Tanuja Pandey, XII D

The much awaited constitution day assembly was live streamed on YouTube on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2020. It was a great event organised by class 12<sup>th</sup>, highlighting the significance of the Indian Constitution. The fantastic response from the dignitaries was a boost for the organizing class.

The programme commenced with a soft patriotic melody reminding us of our roots and with the constitution in view. The anchor for the assembly welcomed the school administration and the chief guest; Rev Sr. Cynthia CJ, a UN NGO representative, a social worker and a prominent lawyer with her heartfelt gratitude. Further the assembly commenced with a prayer song and a welcoming prayer dance.

Many students participated with a great enthusiasm even though it was an online assembly. There were a series of events beginning with highlighting the history of our Constitution, its significance in our lives, its formation, the reading of the Preamble, a video depicting the enforcement of the Indian Constitution, a patriotic melody awakening love for the nation, reading of the facts related to the Indian Constitution, a power packed dance performance and praying earnestly for our nation.

Our chief guest instilled in us many values with her views and encouraging words. The assembly concluded with words of encouragement and appreciation by our principal Rev. Sr. Merlin. Further with her views she made the day and the celebration worthwhile. The purpose of the assembly was fulfilled as everyone understood the need to respect and live the values of our sacred Indian Constitution.



## ‘Marian Fest’– School’s Fest Day

Mrs Rosy Jacob

The month of December brings with it the joy of celebration at St. Mary’s School. The Feast Day of Mother Mary, Patroness of the school, was celebrated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December. Every year, this day is celebrated with great festivity. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic this year, physical celebration was not possible. Nonetheless, the Feast day was celebrated on a virtual platform.

The occasion was graced by our honourable Chief Guest Rev. Father Vincent D’Souza who is the Vice President of the governing board of the Diocesan Education schools and the Chancellor in the Archdiocese of Delhi as well as the Principal of Rosary Sr. Sec. School, Delhi. He spoke of the spirit of hope, calling upon the Marians to spread hope among those who were hopeless. He also asked every Marian to have the spirit of caring for one and all, keeping in mind the school motto Competence for Commitment.

The students of class 7 put up a beautiful and meaningful assembly. There was a short skit, showing how Mother Mary intercedes and heals a little boy’s mother of corona virus. It brings home to us how each one of us can go to Mother Mary with our petitions which is sure to be answered. Talented students performed dances and a few other students were seen singing hymns of Mother Mary melodiously. A few students spoke about some of Mother Mary’s virtues encouraging the Marians to inculcate them in their lives.

It was a proud moment for the Marians, as the School Manager Rev Father Jose TJ released the school magazine 2019-2020 which was the culmination of the hard work of the Editorial Board.

The Feast Day came to an end with a message from our school Principal Rev. Sister Merlin. She appreciated the efforts of all in making the day one of joyous celebration and also wished each one a Happy Feast Day.



Students joining the School Anthem virtually during the school feast

## Caroling our way at NISCORT

Mrs Aurita Claire John

A few teachers along with our Principal Rev Sr Merlin and our Headmistress Rev Sr Poonam from our school were invited to NISCORT Media College, Vaishali to sing carols in order to bring a festive spirit and to share the joy of Christmas with the world.

It was indeed a marvellous opportunity for us. After a long time the teachers came together to put forward a fulfilling performance to welcome baby Jesus. Two carols ‘Mistletoe and Wine’ and ‘Khul Gaya Aasman Hain’ were performed by the choir. Our Principal Rev Sr. Merlin believed in us and thus this was made possible.

Facing the camera’s, recording in a studio and getting the videos done was like a dream come true. It was one of a life time experience for some of us and has definitely added flavour to our lives in this pandemic.

Niscort Media Productions thanked our school for participating wholeheartedly at a time where the whole world looks up for freshness, revival and change.

Our songs are now streaming on the Niscort Production channel on Youtube. This experience will always be cherished. All thanks to our dear Principal and Niscort Media College.



# Christmas- The Joy Of Giving

Ms. Reema Marwaha

**C**hristmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.

St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School Mayur Vihar Phase III aims at inculcating humanitarian values among students. Every year, the school encourages the students to contribute earnestly towards this joy of giving and instilling in them the values of sharing and caring.

Under the patronship of our school Principal, Rev. Sr. Merlin C J, the C J sisters took up the noble cause of reaching out to the underprivileged despite the COVID 19 limitations.

The teachers and the students of all the classes contributed different provision items like pulses, rice, sugar, oil etc. Like always, many students donated generously towards this cause. The C J sisters went to the nearby slum areas to distribute the collected items among the poor and also to those requested for earnest assistance.



## FIT India School Week

Mr. Pawan Kr. Tyagi

*"A healthy man means a healthy family which ultimately leads to a healthy society. This is the only way to new India."* - P.M. Modi

**I**n order to take forward the mission, as announced by our honourable PM in 2019 which was to inculcate more physical activity and sports in people's everyday lives, CBSE had decided to have a "Fit India School Week" for children from 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.

St. Mary's Sr. Sec School, Mayur Vihar also celebrated the Fit India School Week under the guidance of our Principal. Most of the teachers' and students of our school participated in this movement enthusiastically. Students are our future and if they are not fit and healthy then our nation will not have the right kind of a generation to achieve proper goals.

The Marian family strongly believes that with increase in physical education and activity for our students, we can strive for not only a healthier future but also for a stress-free and a healthy India.

Activities like Surya Namaskar, Poster making, Aerobics and online quizzes / lectures were conducted on an online platform, keeping in mind the pandemic restrictions. Students took part in all these activities with keen interest showcasing not only their calibre but also reminding each other to work for a secure tomorrow hence, fulfilling the purpose of the movement.



**PUSA ROAD**

St. Michael's Sr. Sec. School  
Managar: Fr. Savarimuthu Sankar Principal:  
Rev. Dr. Sabu Joseph

# Christmas and Principal's Day celebration

## "Never suppress a generous thought of celebration"

Seema Narang

December is a month of happiness and celebration. The season of festivities unwraps joy and gaiety in St. Michael's Sr. Sec. School, 3 Pusa Road in this beautiful month with birthday and Christmas celebration. The merriment begins on 20<sup>th</sup> December with our Principal Rev. Dr. Sabu Joseph's birthday celebration to enjoying the spirit of Christmas on 25<sup>th</sup> December. Like every other year, this year too was filled with grandiose and cheer. As a mark of honour 20<sup>th</sup> December is also celebrated as Principal's Day.

This year a virtual program was organised to thank, wish and pray for our Principal's love, concern and motivation rendered to the institution. Students of class 12th participated actively in the celebration by presenting their impressive wishes through prayer, prayer song, birthday song for the Principal in group and individually. Special highlight were the Instrumentals played by Harjas Singh of 12 Ruby and Aashvi Katyal of 12 Diamond. School Manager Rev. Fr. Savarimuthu Shankar shared his birthday wishes and Mrs. Ruchi Sharma wished the Principal on behalf of all the staff members.

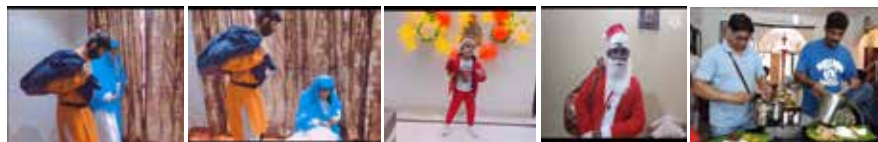
Students enjoyed the birthday programme and the power point presentation by Pradeep Sir.

The echoes of the joyful moments continued for long and vibrated again when on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Entire school family joined together to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. The joyous moment began fresh in the morning when at 8 am the school gathered for the virtual celebration.

The birth of baby Jesus reminded everyone of the essence of love, kindness, generosity and joy. Students of the primary section joined the 9<sup>th</sup> graders of the school to share their joy of the occasion projecting their talents through dance, skit and singing. The nativity sequence, carol singing, visit of the Santa Claus, blissful message by our school manager Rev. Fr. Savarimuthu Shankar, motivational story with wishes and blessings by our school Principal Rev. Dr. Sabu Joseph and the creative inputs of the children presenting self made Christmas decoration items, were captivating and mesmerizing.

The co-operation and support from our parents, teachers, each and every participant made the event a joyful and thankful one. We heartily thank the authorities for providing us this platform where every participant tried to project their talent, though virtually, to their maximum limit even during this pandemic confinement. The technical support by Mr. Pradip gave shape to the entire program and materialised the efforts of the in-charges of the program - Mrs. Mini, Mrs. Soma and Mrs. Shivani.

The program ended with loving wishes of Merry Christmas by a loving tiny tot.



VOD

JANUARY 2021

# DIOCESAN DIGEST

## COMMISSION FOR EVANGELIZATION

### HOW CAN I BE A MISSIONARY DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Bernadette Morris

As part of the Mission Month Celebrations, the Commission For Evangelization conducted an Essay Writing Competition HOW CAN I BE A MISSIONARY DURING THE PANDEMIC?

We had participants from all over the country and we are pleased to announce that **Giselle Rodrigues** of St Louis Church, Dahisar, Mumbai has won a cash prize of Rs 1000/- for the Best Entry in the English Category.

Giselle's winning entry:

#### HOW CAN I BE A MISSIONARY IN THE PANDEMIC ?

Jesus has given us The Great Commission; 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.' We are sent-forth in the good times, in the not so good times. Even in this pandemic we are still 'sent'. We never cease to be a missionary. Our families, friends, workplaces, a visit to the market, an occasional walk in a nearby park all of this is our mission field. Few simple ways to get you started:

- Be open to the Holy Spirit, ask Him to show you how you can bring glory to God today?
- Open your mouth and pray for people, pray with them - aloud (keep the prayer short and simple)
- Social media has been such a blessing during this time; send out prayer messages or audio prayers to those who are in difficult situations.
- Reach out in small ways to your neighbours with kind words, offer to buy groceries from the market, offer to drive the elderly for their doctor's appointment, etc
- Share your glory story (like me) with others, one never knows how their own experience will encourage someone.

Until a few months ago I was part of a family that was waiting for the lockdown to get over and get back to my routine. Days turned to weeks and weeks to months with no relief in sight. In May 2020, two of my family members tested positive for COVID. When unexpected suffering comes your way one realizes how much more of God they need in their life. With two members in the hospital and quarantine centre respectively; the rest of us were home quarantined. I felt so helpless. For me it started with getting down on my knees and breaking into tears and simply calling out "Jesus, please help me!!".



My Jesus has used our suffering and tragedy to open the hearts of my family members who had closed themselves to Christ. I rejoice and dance now; because I see my family on the journey of discipleship.

Awake from your slumber, oh you Jesus freak (disciple)..let Him shine through you..The Holy Spirit is not quarantined, let Him use you.

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. - ISAIAH 43:19*

**JEEVAN JYOTI ASHRAM BURARI**

# Beginning of Virtual English Worship & Healing Night

George David Toppo

The Delhi Charismatic Service of Communion (DCSC) initiated its monthly English worship & healing night on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 as the participants joined via zoom. The virtual night vigil included praise & worship by Mercy Reigns Worship band followed by a sharing on Isaiah 53:5 (By his strips we are healed) by Mr. Cyril John & heart touching testimonies by leaders of the charismatic renewal. The whole virtual night vigil was coordinated by Mrs. Jancy Johnson with help of the DCSC English



intercession ministry known as the Delhi Crusaders. There were 60 leaders who joined via zoom and experienced the merciful healing touch of our lord. The night vigil concluded with the healing adoration led by Rt. Rev. Francis Kalist, Bishop of Meerut & Episcopal advisor to the CCR in India and it was also live streamed via our YouTube channel.



# Night Vigil at Jeevan Jyoti

George David Toppo



Jeevan Jyoti Ashram, Burari conducted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday monthly night vigil for the Hindi and Malayalam speaking community. The Hindi night vigil was live streamed on our youtube channel and hundreds attended the same. It included anointing adoration along with a reflection on the theme “Emmanuel- God Is With Us” by Rev. Fr. Arockiasamy from Amravati Diocese, praise & worship session by JJA Hindi choir and a testimony by Mr. Patiraj Yadav from Vasai. The Malayalam speaking community on the other hand conducted an intercessory night vigil that was live streamed on our Youtube Channel and facebook page. During this time, members of the Delhi Crusaders Team ie., the Intercession Ministry of the Delhi Charismatic Service of Communion sat before the blessed sacrament in Jeevan Jyoti Ashram, Burari and interceded for all the petitions being received through our various social media platforms. This intercessory malayalam night vigil was initiated after one of the intercessors received a message from the Lord during a 72 hours of intercessory adoration. Thousands of people joined through facebook and youtube in interceding for the church and the nation.

## Jericho 2020 (Batch 6): A 15-Day Online International Prophetic Intercession Training Course

(For Overseas Participant)

George David Toppo

The Delhi Charismatic Renewal Services organised a 15-day online international prophetic intercession training course for overseas participants from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020. It was led by Rt. Rev. Francis Kalist, Bishop of Meerut and Episcopal Advisor to CHARIS India, and Mr. Cyril John, Member, CHARIS International. This course was the 6<sup>th</sup> batch of Jericho 2020 that focused on training anointed prophetic intercessors for the Church and the nation. It witnessed a total of 78 participants from 13 countries, viz, Bahrain, Canada, Finland, India, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, UAE, Uganda and UK. Practical workshops on Charisms and prophetic intercession increased the vibrancy of the course as the participants were divided into different groups as per their countries and continents. On the evening of December 12, we had the live Eucharistic adoration and prayer for healing and baptism in the Holy Spirit (BHS) streamed from Jeevan Jyoti Ashram, Delhi that was led by Mr. Cyril John & Mr. Ajin Joseph as the participant joined via zoom. The training course concluded with an interactive session of the participants with the speakers, where the participants got an opportunity to interact with the resource and share their experience. As a follow-up to this course, all the 78 trained prophetic intercessors have decided to meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month along with those of the previous batch of Jericho 2020 and prophetically intercede for the Church & the World.



## Nazareth 2020: A 6-Day Hindi Family Convention

Ignatius Topno



Jeevan Jyoti Ashram, Burari conducted a 6-Day Catholic Life in the Spirit Hindi Family Convention called as 'NAZARETH'; reflecting on the Holy Family during the convention. It was conducted from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2020. Most Rev. Anil J.T.Couto inaugurated the Convention with an Online Holy Mass and also led a session along with the Eucharistic adoration as he prayed for all the participants.

The Convention also included Rt. Rev. Francis Kalist, Bishop of Meerut & Episcopal Adviser the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) in India, Rt. Rev. Ignatius Mascarenhas, Bishop of Shimla – Chandigarh Diocese, Rev. Fr. Anil Dev IMS from Matri Dham Ashram, Varanasi, Rev. Fr. Rudolf Rodrigues from Anugrah Ashram, Sitarganj, Bareilly Diocese and Rev. Fr. Jose Prakash from Divya Vani Sangh, Bhopal as the resources. All the sessions aimed to help families grow in holiness through talks on God's Love, Sin & Repentance, Jesus our only Lord & Saviour, Inner Healing through Forgiveness, Holy Spirit, Constants: Duties/Role of faithful in present Covid-19 Pandemic Scenario. Praise & Worship sessions were led by Matri Dham Choir from Varanasi, Mr. Ashish Minj & Ms. Elizabeth from Bilaspur, Mr. Patiraj & family from Vasai, David's Harp Band from YU4C Delhi & the JJA Hindi Choir. Mr. Patiraj Yadav from Vasai, Ms. Margaret Minj from Ranchi, Ms. Arti Ekka from Korba, Chhattisgarh, Mr. Anil P. John & Family from Raipur and Ms. Innocencia from YU4C, Delhi shared their heart touching testimonies. The convention was live streamed on our youtube channel and many testified of what the Lord has done in their lives through this convention.

## A 3-Day Online English Advent Retreat

George David Toppo

The Delhi Charismatic Service of Communion (DCSC) organised a 3-day virtual (online) English advent retreat from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The retreat was led by internationally renowned preachers namely; Most Rev. Anil J. T. Couto, Rt. Rev. Francis Kalist, Very Rev. Msgr. Susai Sebastian, Rev. Fr. Rajeev Palliyathara, Mr. Cyril John, Mr. Benjamin Gonzaga & Ms. Jyotsna Paul. The whole virtual retreat was coordinated by Ms. Jyotsna Paul with help of the DCSC English intercession ministry known as the Delhi Crusaders under the leadership of Mrs. Jancy Johnson. The retreat sessions were streamed via our Youtube channel and included sessions from the Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS). The retreat commenced with an inaugural message and blessing by Most Rev. Anil J. T. Couto, our beloved shepherd followed by anointed praise & worship sessions by extraordinarily gifted gospel bands, enlightening talks & heart touching testimonies from various leaders of the charismatic renewal from different parts of the world. The retreat concluded with the BHS adoration led by Rt. Rev. Francis Kalist, Bishop of Meerut & Episcopal advisor to the CCR in India and it was streamed via our YouTube channel.



## Life Beyond Pandemic

Elizabeth Antony

Secretary, Women Commission, Archdiocese of Delhi.

Even though the pandemic has created uncertainty and fear, it is understood that life has to go on now amidst the post vaccine time. Dr. Felton, the very eminent management consultant and ever available counsellor for the lay as well as the laity was great to address the enthusiastic women of diocese, some still fumbling with technology, on 29<sup>th</sup> November virtually. Dr. Felton encouraged all the participants as they are more empowered and men are empowered through women. It is the time for all of us to become good samaritans. There are many who are food and delivering it to COVID patients and helping them recover. Of course prayer is the greatest medicine as there is no other human invented medicines or care that could do anything like a prayer can. Rosary is the most powerful weapon for the unarmed. And God sent his soldiers, dedicated doctors and nursing staff who risk their lives by being at the forefront. Psalm 91 is not only the solution for pestilence but also promises refuge in the fortress of Lord. He will be there in your time of trial and tribulation.

According to Felton, home remedies are plentiful now and beyond. If family prayers are ointments to reduce the mental agony, discussing the problems at home, personal or official enable resilience to face it or tackle amicably. Sparing quality time with family members as good is a spray relieving the pain quickly. Since the male members can go into depression or aggression, for loss of job or financial crisis, women could shoulder the crisis by being good listeners and by relying more on prayer. The sharing of faith experience by the participants was enlightening.

## CHETANALAYA

## Upcycling Project and Blessing of a New Building at Mukundpur

Fr. John Britto

We all might have heard about 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. There are more Rs added to this group such as Refuse, Repurpose and so on. Another concept that hits the headline these days is 'upcycling.' Upcycling, also known as creative reuse, is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless, or unwanted products into new materials or products perceived to be of greater quality, such as artistic value or environmental value. Chetanalaya, the social action wing of the Archdiocese, received a project on 'upcycling' from Indigo reach. The project would focus on upcycling of different clothes used at Indigo by the skilled women of Jahangirpuri community and some others would also learn from it. They would make different products from them and from the sale of upcycled products more than 900 people are expected to be benefitted. His Grace Most. Rev. Anil J.T.Couto, President, Chetanalaya, inaugurated and blessed the unit on 16th December, 2020. On the same day, he also blessed a new building of Chetanalaya at Mukundpur. The centre would be used for the Dance Academy of Chetanalaya, Chetanalaya Vishesh Gurukul, Meetings and programmes of Neighbourhood Children Parliament, other meetings and Terrace Garden.



**MORNIG STAR CHURCH**

# Morning Star's First Christmas

Nitisha Minj

The Morning Star Church at Ish Vatika celebrated its first Christmas. The church was recently awarded as the unique star shaped church in the world in the Best of India Records.

The midnight service was attended by over a hundred people in the coldest night. Father Stanley, the main celebrant of the service, shared about the star that each of us have in us. He compared the star of Bethlehem being a symbol of guidance for the wise men with the Mornig Star church at Ish Vatika as a church pointing to the people around especially non Christians about the redeeming love of Jesus.



# National

## Share & Care – Christmas Celebration at Bethania

Fr. Chetan Machado

Executive Secretary, National Youth Commission



A Christmas celebration was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at Bethania, National Youth Commission Centre of Conference of Catholic Bishops of India. Children from neighboring areas were invited keeping in mind COVID-19 guidelines. Around 60 children participated in the programme.

Children gathered at Bethania Centre at 11 am. After registration they were divided in five groups. Youth from neighboring parishes conducted games and activities. Mr. Percival and Ms Jyotsna gave Christmas message of sharing and caring. They explained to children about importance of Christmas and asked them to enjoy the event. Mr. Nigel with the support of the youth from three parishes coordinated and conducted the programme.

After the games, winners were given prizes. All the participants gathered around Santa Claus and sang carols announcing the birth of Christ. Children danced and sang carols. Lunch was served to all the participants. After lunch all were given a gift and Christmas cake. F. Chetan Machado thanked the participants and youth for conducting the programme.



# III National Youth Conference

## YOUNG MAN, I SAY TO YOU, ARISE (Lk. 7:14)

Fr. Chetan Machado

Executive Secretary

The Indian Catholic Youth Movement of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India organized the III National Youth Conference from 11-13 December 2020. This year the conference was online and was organized in a very unique way. A special portal was created to give a different experience to all the participants.

The virtual Conference began on 11<sup>th</sup> December at 5 pm with the Inaugural Mass celebrated by the Chairman of the National Youth Commission Most Rev Soosai Nazarene, Bishop of Kottar. In his homily, he urged the young people to have good relationship and see goodness in others. He also asked the young people not to judge people knowingly or unknowingly and use our words carefully. After the Inaugural Eucharist, Ms. Jyotsna, on behalf of the National Team welcomed all. In her address she asked the participants to take life seriously, to enjoy the opportunities the Lord has prepared. The chairman in his message to the young people mentioned the difficult moments that we are facing and said that as one catholic family of this country this conference should foster better relationships. Most Rev Ignatius D'Souza, member bishop of the commission, in his message asked the young people to be compassionate like Jesus was compassionate. Speaking on the theme he said, 'we need compassionate hearts to reach out' Fr. Chetan said that there is an urgency today that we need to rise up and accept the challenges and move on in life.



After the Inaugural Mass, His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias addressed the young people. He spoke on the theme of the Conference 'Young Man, I say to you Arise'. He also told the young people about the discussion that took place during the synod on the youth. He spoke about three messages which came up strongly during the synod; to take them seriously, to accompany them and to trust them. He wished the participants all the best. After the key note address there was a plenary session where the participants were given opportunity to clarify doubts on youth matters. Ms Jyotsna, National President moderated this session and Fr. Chetan answered a few queries.



On the second day of the Conference, the participants were divided into eight groups for workshops. They were asked to choose two workshops while registering. After some basic instructions, they were sent to class rooms. Themes were carefully chosen to educate young people on various current themes like, social media, dating, relationship, Catholic faith, mental health, career, church history, spirituality and social consciousness. Resource persons were allotted to these classrooms who were experts in these topics. Soon after the workshops, there was a plenary called 'youth café'. A panel was chosen to discuss on the recent government policies, recent court judgments and scandals in the church. Fr. Frazer SJ, Fr. Prakash Cedric SJ and Fr. Suresh Mathew spoke on these topics respectively. This followed a very fruitful interactive session moderated by Fr. Chetan Machado. The day concluded with Taize Prayer conducted by young people at Bethania Centre, Faridabad.

On 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Most Rev. Ignatius D'Souza, Bishop of Bareilly and member bishop of the Youth Commission celebrated the Eucharist at 10:00 am. In his homily he asked the young people to be prophetic and active. He urged them to shun the negativity that they read and watch on television. He said, 'We shouldn't take the unkind road or arrogant path'. Quoting Pope Francis, he said, we need to find new ways to give joy to the world which is filled with negativity. In the evening there was a second round of workshops. The day concluded with live gospel band from Mumbai. Echoes of Zion, a Catholic gospel band of Salesian Youth Movement that focuses on youth evangelization and catechism through the Gospel music performed live. The evening was full of music & thrill.



The National Executive Committee of ICYM conceptualized and planned the entire event with the technical help from Cisoft Technologies and Bethania Centre assisted by Mr. Percival Holt. MS Jyotsna D'Souza thanked all the participants and resource persons for helping to conduct this unique online conference. Three hundred young people along with youth directors and animators participated in this Conference.



# ANNIVERSARIES 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021 TO 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

PASTORAL CLERGY

## BIRTHDAY

### JANUARY

- 20 Suresh Babu (1984)
- 21 Susai Sebastian (1945)
- 23 Thomas Champakatt (1959)
- 23 Maxim Pinto (1972)
- 26 Francis Prasad (1980)
- 27 Jardise Nazareth (1979)
- 28 K. Joseph Amal Raj (1983)
- 30 Ben Carol (1986)
- 30 Aloysius V.R (1989)

### FEBRUARY

- 2 A. John Rosario (1975)
- 6 Vijay Kumar Baretto (1975)
- 7 Johnson Kizhakeveettill (1959)
- 9 Thavamani (1975)
- 11 Joseph Vadakumcherry (1946)
- 12 George Manimala (1960)
- 13 Frederick D' Souza (1957)

## ORDINATIONS

### JANUARY

- 4 Johannes Ravi Kota (2006)
- 20 + Anil Couto (Inst. Delhi 2013)

### FEBRUARY

- 6 George Abraham (2002)
- 8 + Anil Couto (1981)

## DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

### JANUARY

- |                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Fr. Theodore Menezes          | 27-01-2004 |
| Fr. George Kureethra          | 09-01-2012 |
| Fr. Lawrence Pinto            | 20-01-2012 |
| Fr. William Premdas Chaudhary | 11-01-2016 |
| Fr. Joseph Kudilil            | 15-01-2017 |
| Archbishop Angelo Fernandes   | 30-01-2000 |
| Rev. Fr. Philip Parmar        | 19-01-2018 |

# Calendar of Feasts

## JANUARY 2021

- |    |                             |    |                               |
|----|-----------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 1  | Mary Mother of God          | 17 | Saint Anthony of Egypt        |
| 2  | Saints Basil & Gregory      | 18 | Saint Charles of Sezze        |
| 3  | Most Holy Name of Jesus     | 19 | Saint Fillan                  |
| 4  | Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton   | 20 | Saint Fabian                  |
| 5  | Saint John Neumann, bishop  | 21 | Saint Agnes                   |
| 6  | Epiphany                    | 22 | Saint Vincent                 |
| 7  | Blessed Angela of Foligno   | 23 | Saint Marianne Cope           |
| 8  | Saint Thorfinn              | 24 | Saint Francis de Sales        |
| 9  | Saint Adrian of Canterbury  | 25 | Conversion of Saint Paul      |
| 10 | Servant of God Vico Necchi  | 26 | Saints Timothy and Titus      |
| 11 | Blessed William Carter      | 27 | Saint Angela Merici           |
| 12 | Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys  | 28 | Saint Thomas Aquinas          |
| 13 | Saint Hilary of Poitiers    | 29 | Saints Sarbelius & Barbea     |
| 14 | Saint Felix of Nola         | 30 | Saint Hyacintha of Mariscotti |
| 15 | Saint Paul the Hermit       | 31 | Saint John Bosco              |
| 16 | Saint Berard and Companions |    |                               |

**VACANCIES IN THE DELHI CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESAN SCHOOLS FOR THE YEAR 2021-22**

S.No.	Name of the Schools	Nursery/ NTT	PRT/ Asst. Teachers	TGT	PGT	Others
1	St. Michael's Sr. Sec. School, Gurgaon	2 -All subjects	5 -All subjects, 1-Drawing 1-Special Educator	1-Social Science, 1- Science	1-Computer Science	1-Receptionist (Age: 25 Graduate with Proficiency in English & Computer)
2	St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School, Mayur Vihar		1 -Art & Craft , 1-Special Educator	1-English, 1-Social Science		
3	Sahoday Sr. Sec. School, Hauz Khas		1 -All subjects, 1 -Art & Craft ,	1-Counsellor		
4	St. Michael's Sr. Sec. School, Pusa Road			1-Western Music , 1 - Liabrarian	1-Physical Education	1-Front Desk Officer
5	Rosary Sr Sec School, Kingsway Camp		1- Special Educator for slow learners (Female)	1- Chemistry, 1-English, 1-Hindi, 1-Counsellor ( Female),	1- Chemistry, 1-English, 1-Maths, 1-Computer Science & IP	
6	St. Anthony's Boys Sec. School, Paharganj (Govt.Aided)		4 -All subjects, 1- Special Educator	2-Hindi, 2-English, 2-Natural Science, 3-Maths,		1-librarian, 1- LDC, 1-Head Clerk, 1-Lab Asstt
7	St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School, Rohtak	3 -All subjects	2 -English, 2 -Environmental Studies, 1 -Hindi		1-Chemistry, 1-Maths, 1-Physical Education	1-librarian
8	St. Jude's Academy, Sonapat	1 -All subjects	1-Maths, 1-English, 1 Art & Craft	1-English, 1-Science, 1-Maths,	1-Maths, 1-Chemistry, 1-Commerce, 1-Accountancy, 1-Economics, 1-Physical Education	
9	Rosary School, Narela		1 -All subjects			
10	Rosary Sr Sec School, Kheri Manajat			1-Physics, 1-Chemistry, 1-PET (Female),		1-German Language
11	Maria Manzil School, Nuh		3 -English, 1-Math, 1-Computer Science	1-Math, 1-English, 1-Hindi,		
12	St. Michael's Sr. Sec. School, Vatika kunj, Nayagaon ,Gurgaon		3 -All subjects, 1-PET			

- NB:-** 1. Applications forms must be collected from the **School Office concerned between 8th to 18th Feb 2021** (excluding 2nd saturday & Sunday) during school hours.  
 2. Filled forms must be submitted **by hand** to the **Director for Education, Yusuf Sadan, New Delhi- 01** between **15th to 19th February ,2021 between 10am to 1pm & 2pm to 4pm.**  
 3. Accommodation facility will be provided to the selected candidates in , Nuh, and Rohtak.  
 4. Filled application forms of Rohtak, Nuh, Sonipat, and Narela can either be submitted to DCA Education office or directly to the school concerned  
 5. Management reserves the right to call only the shortlisted candidates for the Interview.  
 6. Filled application forms of **St. Anthony's Boys Sec. School, Paharganj** must be submitted to school premises during school hours.  
 7. Candidates should have proficiency in English, basic computer knowledge and 2 years of min. experience preferred.  
 8. Catholic Candidates should be practicing their faith and should have passed catechism atleast 10th Std.  
 9. **Class IV posts(auxillary/helping staff) if any will not be advertised and the same will be filled directly by the School Concern through the OUT SOURCE AGENCY ONLY as and when required**

**Qualification required as per the Post**

- a) Nursery: NTT (2 Years)      b) Primary: B.El.Ed/Graduation+B.Ed/TTC/D.Ed  
 c) TGT: Graduation+ B.Ed.      e) Accountant: B.Com  
 f) Office Staff: Graduation+Professional Qualification



Director for Education  
Archdiocese of Delhi  
Yusuf Sadan  
Ashok Place-110001

**REV. DR. SABU JOSEPH**  
**DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION**



# *Anniversary of installation as Archbishop of Delhi*



**Most. Rev. Dr. Anil J.T. Couto,  
Archbishop of Delhi**

*Congratulations*



## SOULMATE

Parents seeking alliance for their daughter Roman Catholic upper middle class family, 31 years, fair complexion, 5'3", born and brought up in Delhi, M. Phil from J.N.U, Delhi and Ph.D result awaited from JNU, Delhi. Currently working for an M.N.C as senior marketing Research Editor. Proposal invited from suitable boys from Delhi & NCR region. Contact: 9818975351, email:marcyrill@hotmail.com.

Parents seeking alliance for their daughter, R.C. Keralite girl, 26 years, 5'2" born and brought up in Delhi MBA in Finance. Presently working in PNB Housing Finance, Noida. Contact: 9910265591, 9891243850.

Alliance invited for Delhi based Roman Catholic girl aged 29 years, completed Bachelor's from JMC- Delhi University and Master's in International Relation. Currently working in one of the European Embassy. Proposals are invited from well educated Roman Catholic boys. Contact: 9818934727, 9911961958.

Parents seeking alliance for their son Roman Catholic, 29 years, wheatish complexion 5'7", born and brought up in Delhi, currently working for an MNC in Finance Department. Please contact: 8802280168, 8285555613.

Alliance invited for Roman Catholic girl, 5'3", slim fit, wheatish complexion, convent educated 27 years old. Currently pursuing Teachers Training Course. Looking for a well settled Roman Catholic boy from Delhi. Contact: 9990852418, 9873460097.



## Wedding at Pride!

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# *Christmas Celebrations*





**2021: Year of St. Joseph**