



ST PIUS X PARISH MULUND, NEWSLETTER

COM-UNION

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AUGUST 2024



*Love for
the Eucharist*





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CAVEAT

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Blessed Carlo Acutis -----A well timed Saint

Down the ages, God in his infinite wisdom has sent prophets and saints to preach, mould, guide and set an example to mortal man. A saint is a holy person, blessed with graces; who leads a life pleasing to God. Blessed Carlo Acutis is one such saintly person. The news from Vatican, that the young Blessed Carlo Acutis will soon be canonized as a Saint, could not have come at a more opportune time. The lockdown during the Covid pandemic forced us to stay indoors, and introduced us to online Masses and Spiritual Communion. Many feel that it is fine to continue with that practice. We needed this Saint of the Holy Eucharist to awaken in us the reality, that online services are not a norm, and were an exception granted due to the circumstances at that time. When we do not attend the Eucharistic celebration in person; we miss out on the communitarian aspect of the Eucharist and on the grace / joy of receiving tangibly the Body and Blood of Jesus. Receiving Communion is the very foundation of our Faith.

For Bl. Carlo the Eucharist was the centre of his life. Being born in the digital era, he used the Internet to reach out to people and instil in the young and old a love for the Eucharist. In fact, his mother, who came close to the Church and the Sacraments because of her son Carlo, says ‘he is my little saviour!’

Carlo Acutis is popularly called “**the patron saint of the Internet**” and is dubbed “**the first millennial saint**,” because he is the first person of the millennial generation on the way to sainthood. Carlo teaches us that each one of us is called to be a saint - and even the youth and young children can aspire to be saints. We pray that he becomes the role model for the youth of today.

We, at St Pius X Parish, are blest to have as our patron, St. Pius X, who was known as the ‘**Pope of the Eucharist**’ because he promoted ‘love for the Eucharist’. Pius X frequently extolled the reception of Holy Communion as the “shortest and safest way to get to heaven.” Despite the conventions of his time, he argued that Christ never meant his Body to be reserved for adults, and in 1910, Pope Pius X issued the decree *Quam Singularem*, which lowered the age of First Communion from 12 to 7, which was determined as the “age of discretion.” As we celebrate his feast, let us resolve to renew the fervour we had when we received our ‘First Holy Communion’ and enhance in us the love for the Eucharist.

We need to receive Holy Communion as frequently as possible. When we receive Holy Communion with adequate preparation and reverence Christ dwells in us; just as St. Paul says, “it is not I that lives, but Christ that lives in me!” (Galatians 2:20). Through the Eucharist, Christ lives in me, acts through me, and speaks through me. Hence, our lives, words and actions should be Christlike. When faced with difficult situations or an opportunity to serve, we need to ask ourselves – “**What would Christ do?**”. Let us pledge to enable Christ to become alive in each one of us. Like Bl. Carlo Acutis and St. Pius X, let us renew and restore an unshakable love for the Eucharist. Inspired by the saints of the Eucharist, we take Christ out into the world.

Wishing each one of you a very happy feast of ST. PIUS X

| Fr. George Athaide

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS' SHORT YET PROFOUND LIFE

For eight centuries, Assisi had been attracting pilgrims from all over the world because of St. Francis and St. Clare. However, on 10th October 2020, Catholics had their attention focused at the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi not because of them, but because of **a new kid in town, who was being beatified: Carlo Acutis**. Since then, pilgrims have been flooding to the resting place of this 15-year-old, at Santa Maria Maggiore, Assisi.

One may ask, “Why is the Catholic Church granting Sainthood to this video-game-playing Italian teen?” The answer is the same which one would give for St. Francis and St. Clare - because of his immense love for Jesus:

“To always be close to Jesus, that’s my life plan.”

The ‘God’s Influencer’ as he is nicknamed, was born on 3rd May 1991, in London, England. His family moved back to Milan, Italy, when he was four months old. From a very young age, Carlo had great love for the Holy Eucharist and for our Blessed Mother.

Carlo believed “The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven.” His plan to become a Saint, to become holy, “to always be close to Jesus” was simple, “When we face the sun we get a tan... but when we stand before Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints”, “The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus.” And that’s exactly what he did from the age of 7, as his mother recalls, “He started to go to Mass each day, to attend Eucharistic adoration each day, the daily Rosary, and also read the Bible.”

He desired Holiness not just for himself, but for all. He wanted to influence the hearts of people by strengthening their faith, especially in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. So, at the age of 11, this computer genius started working on a website, putting together all the approved Eucharistic miracles around the world. His logic was clear: **if more people believe in the Real Presence, more they will stand before the Eucharistic Lord, and more they will be Holy.**



The first person who was influenced by this ‘God’s Influencer’ was his own Mother. She once said in an interview, “...why did I say that he[Carlo] was my [little] saviour? Because through Carlo, I understood that

Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament... this was the discovery of my life.”

Carlo had another “direct contact with heaven.” He had great love for Our Blessed Mother: “The Virgin Mary is the only woman in my life.” **Carlo knew he was in a battle and he fought alongside our Blessed Mother with the weapon of her choice:** “After the Holy Eucharist, the holy Rosary is the most powerful weapon for fighting the devil and the shortest ladder for climbing into heaven.”

On 1st October 2006, Carlo fell sick, and it was discovered to be acute promyelocytic leukemia. The doctors said that he had just a few days to live. Carlo offered his suffering for Pope Benedict XVI and for the Catholic Church. When the doctors asked him about his pain, he said, “There are people who suffer much more than me.” Before

breathing his last on 12th October 2006, Blessed Carlo's final words to his mother were, "Mom, don't be afraid. Since Jesus became a man, death has become the passage towards life..."

The Miracles

The Beatification of Carlo Acutis took place after a miracle was attributed to his intercession. In Brazil, a boy named Mattheus was born in 2009 with a serious condition, which did not allow him to retain any food in the stomach, causing constant vomiting. When he turned four, he was only 20 pounds and was not expected to live long. His mother took him to the picture of Carlo Acutis to ask for his intercession. When Mattheus touched the picture of the future Blessed, he made a prayer: "I wish I could stop vomiting so much." Healing began immediately and there were changes in the physiology of the organs. On their way back home, he told his mother he was healed and asked for French fries and steak, food

that his brothers liked. He ate and did not vomit.

On 23rd May 2024, Pope Francis recognized a **second miracle** attributed to the intercession of Carlo. The miracle was the healing of a 21-year-old girl from Costa Rica named Valeria Valverde, who was near death after seriously injuring her head in a bicycle accident, while studying in Florence in 2022.

In 1713, St. Louis Marie de Montfort in his book 'True Devotion to Mary' prophesied about the future saints, "Almighty God and his holy Mother are to raise up great saints, who will surpass in holiness most other saints... the formation and the education of the great saints who will come at the end of the world are reserved to her." In Blessed Carlo Acutis and many other teens and young adults, these prophecies are coming true.

| Fr. Aaron Sequeira

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS' WORK ON THE EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES

“**T**o always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan.” This was not just an expression of faith, but a real-life plan made and creatively implemented by Bl. Carlo Acutis. He was noted for his cheerfulness, computer skills and devotion to the Eucharist, which became a core theme of his life. People around him considered him a computer geek, due to his passion for computers and the Internet. He was skilled in Dreamweaver, Java, C++ and Ubuntu, often helping others with technical issues. When he was 14, his Parish Priest asked him to create a webpage for his Parish, Santa Maria Segreta in Milan. On the request of another Priest he created a

website to promote volunteering, for which he won a national competition called 'Sarai volontario' (You will be a volunteer).

His keen desire to transmit this faith to a younger generation, motivated him to create a website dedicated to cataloguing each reported Eucharistic miracle in the world and maintaining a list of the approved Marian apparitions, most of which he personally visited with his family. He appreciated Blessed Giacomo Alberione's initiatives to use the media to evangelize and proclaim the Gospel, aiming to do likewise with his own website.



of consecration, he saw the appearance of the bread and wine change into that of flesh and blood. The flesh remained as it was, the blood then coagulated into five globules, which represented the five wounds of Christ, each one a different shape and size. Something truly extraordinary outside of mathematical possibility took place. One of the

Bl. Carlo launched his website in 2004 and worked relentlessly on it for two and a half years, involving his entire family in the project. It was unveiled on 4th October 2006, the Feast of St. Francis, only days before his death. Because he was hospitalized, Acutis was not able to attend the debut of his exhibition at Rome's Church of San Carlo Borromeo. The exhibition was also presented at his high school, the Leo XIII Institute.

Not only has the website gained popularity, but a travelling photo exhibition of the Eucharistic miracles, created in his memory, has travelled across five continents and has been translated into 18 languages. It has traveled to more than 10,000 places, including Churches, congressional palaces, youth clubs and welcome centers.

Some of the most famous Eucharistic miracles are as follows:

Lanciano, Italy (8th Century, Circa 750)

The first and perhaps greatest miracle of the Eucharist was at Lanciano, Italy, in the 700s. It happened when a Basilian monk who had doubts at Consecration during the Holy Mass that **Jesus was really present in the Sacred Host**. As he spoke the words

pieces of blood on its own, weighed exactly the same as all five when weighed together! Any two weighed as much as any three of them and the smallest one weighed exactly the same weight as the biggest. This could not be explained by human science.

Bolsena-Orvieto, Italy (1236)

The Miracle of Bolsena-Orvieto appeared to a Priest who doubted the doctrine of transubstantiation — that the bread and wine turn into the literal body and blood of Christ during Consecration. After he had consecrated the Eucharist, **the host began bleeding onto the Altar's liturgical cloth**. At that exact moment, the Priest ran and confessed his sin of doubt to the Pope who was visiting the town at the time. The liturgical cloth today remains on display in the Cathedral of Orvieto.

Santarém, Portugal (13th Century)

There was a woman in Santarém, whose husband was being unfaithful to her. She was distressed by this and decided to enlist a sorceress for help. The sorceress' fee was a consecrated host, so the woman went to Mass at the Church of St. Stephen. When she received the Eucharist on her tongue, she removed it and wrapped it in her

veil to bring to the sorceress. Before the woman had even left the Church, **the host started bleeding**. Instead of returning to the sorceress, she went home and placed the host in a trunk. During the night, light emanated from the trunk. She repented for what she had done and confessed to her Priest the next morning. The Priest retrieved the host and brought it back to the Church, which is now called the Church of the Holy Miracle, where it remains to this day.

Cascia, Italy (1330)

While most people know Cascia as the place to pay homage to St. Rita, it is also

the location of a Eucharistic miracle. A Priest was preparing to visit a dying parishioner a short way from Siena. During his preparations, instead of putting a pyx in his prayer breviary, he placed a consecrated host instead. After arriving at the dying parishioner's house, he heard his confession and absolved him of his sins. He then opened his breviary only to find that **the host had bled, staining both pages with blood**. One of those pages remains today in Cascia.

Merlyn Fernandes,
Confirmation Animator

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS - LOVE FOR THE EUCHARIST

Blessed Carlo Acutis, was an Italian teenager known for his remarkable holiness. His deep devotion to the **Eucharist** played a central role in his life. Carlo often referred to the Eucharist as his **'highway to heaven.'**

From a young age, Carlo participated in daily Mass and spent hours in Eucharistic adoration. He believed that encountering Jesus in the Eucharist was transformative, akin to how sunlight tans our skin. He thought that others would be drawn to Jesus if they truly understood the miracles that happen at every Mass.

Asking his parents to take him to the places of the Eucharistic miracles, Carlo researched over 136 Eucharistic miracles that occurred over the centuries in different countries around the world and have been acknowledged by the Church. He documented them in a virtual museum. Besides creating a website to house this virtual museum, he helped create panel

presentations that have travelled around the world.

Carlo offered up his suffering for others coping with illness and said, "I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church." Carlo died from leukemia on 12th October 2006 at the age of 15. At his request, he was buried in Assisi, because of his love for St. Francis.

Carlo was Beatified in 2020 after his first miracle, when he reportedly healed a Brazilian boy, who had a birth defect in his pancreas that left him unable to eat food normally. He was reportedly healed after his mother said she prayed to Acutis to intercede and help heal her son.

On 1st July 2024, the Vatican approved the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis, the first millennial to be made a saint. It is likely that Carlo will be proclaimed a Saint during the 2025 Jubilee Year.

Polly Paul,
St. Jude Community

The Eucharist, also known as Holy Communion, is **“the source and summit of the Christian life,”** providing profound grace and healing. YOUCAT Article 221 summarises the importance of this Sacrament so vividly – “Every Holy Communion unites me more deeply with Christ, makes me a living member of the Body of Christ, renews the graces that I received in Baptism and Confirmation, and fortifies me for the battle against sin.”

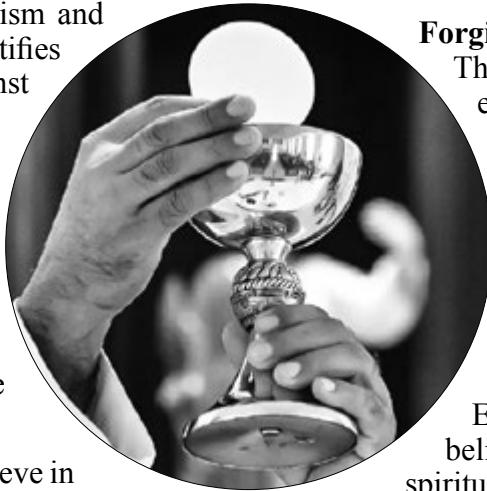
To understand this powerful teaching, we need to first understand what takes place at the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Holy Mass. Here are some key points:

Real Presence: We believe in the doctrine of transubstantiation, meaning that during the Mass, the bread and wine used for Communion **become the actual body and blood of Jesus Christ**, while retaining their appearances of bread and wine. This is central to the understanding of the Eucharist as a true and literal encounter with Christ.

Grace and Spiritual Nourishment: Receiving the Eucharist provides spiritual nourishment and grace, helping believers grow in holiness and strengthening their relationship with God. It is seen as a means of sanctifying grace, which sustains our soul.

Unity with Christ and the Church: Participation in the Eucharist (the entire Mass) unites believers with Christ and with each other as members of the Body

of Christ, the Church. It is an expression of communion with the entire Church community, both living and deceased (the Church Triumphant, Militant and the Suffering). St. Pius X emphasised that receiving Holy Communion frequently strengthens one’s union with Christ, sustains spiritual life and endows the soul with virtues.



Forgiveness and Healing:

The Eucharist has a healing effect on the soul.

It forgives venial sins and helps to strengthen ourselves against future sin.

While mortal sins require the Sacrament of Confession

for absolution, the Eucharist fortifies

believers in their spiritual journey and aids

in overcoming the effects of sin.

Compendium CCC 294 explains that “the Eucharist is a pledge of future glory because it fills us with every grace and heavenly blessing. It fortifies us for our pilgrimage in this life and makes us long for eternal life. It unites us already to Christ seated at the right hand of the Father, to the Church in heaven and to the Blessed Virgin and all the saints.”

Memorial of Christ’s Sacrifice: The Eucharist is a memorial of the Last Supper, where Jesus instituted this Sacrament. It is also a re-presentation of the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross, making that one sacrifice present and effective in the lives of the faithful today at every Mass.

Call to Service and Charity: Receiving the Eucharist commits believers to acts

of charity, social justice and service, reflecting the love and self-giving of Christ. It inspires and empowers them to live out their faith in practical ways. DOCAT Article 21 reminds us that “One cannot go to Communion and at the same time deny others their daily bread.”

How should we receive Holy Communion: The Church teaches us that “the Sacraments are efficacious because it is Christ who acts in the Sacraments and communicates the grace they signify.” (Compendium CCC 229) But for us to receive this grace and be strengthened by it, we need to be properly disposed.

Compendium CCC 291 states that “to receive Holy Communion one must be fully incorporated into the Catholic Church and be in the state of grace, that is, not conscious of being in mortal sin.

Anyone who is conscious of having committed a grave sin must first receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before going to Communion. Also important for those receiving Holy Communion are a spirit of recollection and prayer, observance of the fast prescribed by the Church, and an appropriate disposition of the body (gestures and dress) as a sign of respect for Christ.”

Our Devotion and approach to the Eucharist must be with faith, like the faith of the haemorrhaging woman (Mathew 9:20-22) who touched the hem of Jesus’ garment with tremendous faith and received healing. We touch not just the hem, but the real Jesus Himself at Holy Communion.

Dr. Johnson George,
Catechist, St. Nicholas Community

SAINTS AND THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Throughout the history of the Church, the faithful have experienced the living Christ in the Eucharist and their lives have been transformed. Their encounter with Christ has led them to perform great acts of love and sacrifice, experience hardships and even death, all for the sake of the kingdom of God.

St. Ignatius of Antioch (50-107 / 110 AD)

St. Ignatius of Antioch, Syria, (born c.50 AD), converted to Christianity at a very young age and was consecrated Bishop of Antioch by St. Peter in 69 AD. During the reign of Emperor Trajan, in 107 AD, St. Ignatius was arrested and sentenced to death for refusing to give up Christianity. While on his journey to Rome to be fed to the lions in the Colosseum, St. Ignatius wrote a series of letters that spoke of Jesus’

real presence in the Eucharist and of his impending martyrdom in Eucharistic terms. He stressed the value of the Eucharist, calling it a “medicine of immortality.” In his letter to Christians in Rome St. Ignatius wrote, “The only thing I ask of you is to allow me to offer the libation of my blood to God. **I am the wheat of the Lord; may I be ground by the teeth of the beasts to become the immaculate bread of Christ.**” We find these words echoed in the popular Offertory Hymn “United in One Body.”

St. Ignatius of Antioch is venerated as the patron saint of the Church in Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa. His feast day is celebrated on 17th October.

St. Tarsicius of Rome (3rd C. AD)

St. Tarsicius was a 12-year-old acolyte

during one of the fierce Roman persecutions of the 3rd century. One day, he was entrusted with the task of bringing the Eucharist to imprisoned Christians. On the way, he was stopped by boys his own age who were not Christians, but knew him as a playmate. When Tarsicius refused to join their games, the boys noticed that he was carrying something and wanted to seize it. What started off as bullying turned to vicious madness, when they realised that he was a Christian. Tarsicius was beaten to death, **but did not surrender the Blessed Sacrament to the mob to be profaned.** Pope Benedict XVI describes how when Tarsicius' body was recovered, "the consecrated Host which the little Martyr had defended with his life, had become flesh of his flesh thereby forming, together with his body, a single immaculate Host offered to God."

St. Tarsicius is venerated as the patron saint of altar servers and first communicants. His feast day is celebrated on August 15th.

Saint Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868 AD)

Early on in life, St. Peter Julian Eymard had a strong devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Ordained a Priest in 1834, he served in a Parish at Grenoble until 1839 when his undying devotion to Mary led him to join the Marist Fathers. A powerful preacher of Eucharistic devotions, his own Eucharistic spirituality began to mature and evolve to a new level, whereby, captivated by the love of God as manifested in Christ's gift of himself in the Eucharist, he sought to form a group specifically dedicated to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. **In 1856, Eymard founded the Blessed Sacrament Fathers** in Paris, and in 1858, in collaboration with Margurite Guillot, he founded the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, a cloistered contemplative congregation for women.

Eymard dedicated his life to promoting the Eucharist's mystery, leading his followers into deeper communion with Christ through prayers and adoration.

St. Peter Julian Eymard is venerated as the patron saint of Eucharistic adoration and priests. His feast day is celebrated on 2nd August. (Blessed Sacrament Fathers run the parish at Tembhipada, Bhandup)

St. Therese of Lisieux (Therese of the Child Jesus) (1873 – 1897 AD)

Born on 2nd January 1873 in Alencon, France, Marie Francoise Therese Martin grew up in a Catholic home, where prayer, the Eucharist and practical good works formed the basis of her love of Jesus. At a very young age she felt the desire to join the Carmelite convent. Therese showed a great love for the Blessed Sacrament and received her first Communion at the age of 11. In 1886, after attending Christmas midnight Mass, Therese was healed from the self-doubt, depression and uncertainty that she suffered from the age of 4 when her mother died. After pleading with Pope Leo XII for help, she was allowed to enter the Carmelite Convent at age 15. **By receiving Holy Communion as often as possible she grew in holiness** and it enabled her to do things for others with great love. During this time Therese developed her "little way" of trusting God as a child does. Therese died of tuberculosis on 30th September 1897, at age 24. In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II named St. Therese a Doctor of the Universal Church.

St. Therese of Lisieux is venerated as patron saint of florists, foreign missions, priests, loss of parents and the sick. Her feast day is celebrated on 1st October.

Adrian Viegas,
Catechist, St. Andrew Community

First Holy Communion, the second Sacrament of Initiation, is a significant step in a Catholic child's spiritual life, marking their full participation in the Eucharistic celebration and deepening their relationship with Christ and the Church. The process of receiving this Sacrament in the Catholic Church typically involves several steps, especially for children. Here's an outline of the common process:



Preparation: “The administration of the Most Holy Eucharist to children requires that they have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so that they understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity and are able to receive the body of Christ with faith and devotion.” (Code of Canon Law, Canon 913)

Religious Education: Children start learning about the Faith from Grade 1 in Sunday School, but it is only when they reach the age of reasoning, i.e. when they can distinguish between ordinary bread and the Holy Eucharist, that they begin preparing for their First Holy Communion. In our Parish, catechesis to receive this Sacrament is in the 4th Grade and children learn the meaning of the Eucharist, the Mass, and the importance of the Sacrament. This education helps children understand that they are receiving the body and blood of Christ. The focus is

on the love of God the Father, how the Holy Eucharist flows from that love and the Father's pardon to initiate them into the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is therefore important that parents send their children to Sunday School right from Grade I.

First Sacramental Confession: Before receiving First Holy Communion, children are required to make their First Confession. The formative and pastoral aim is

to educate them from a tender age to the Christian spirit of Penance and Conversion. This Sacrament involves confessing sins to a Priest and receiving absolution, emphasizing the importance of being in a state of grace when receiving the Eucharist.

Instruction and Practice: Children receive specific instruction on how to receive Communion, including the proper way to approach the Altar, how to receive the host (either on the tongue or in the hand), and how to receive the chalice, if it is offered. A rehearsal of the Mass is held close to the date of the First Holy Communion, so that the children can practice these steps.

First Holy Communion Mass: The First Holy Communion is usually celebrated during a special Mass. Children are given a white cape to wear, symbolizing purity,

innocence and holiness. During the Mass, the children receive the Eucharist for the first time (preferably along with their parents). This is a significant and joyous occasion for the children, their families and the Parish community.

Celebration: Families often celebrate this milestone with a fellowship meal or a gathering. We encourage families to come together and have a common celebration in the school hall. It is a tradition to give religious gifts like Rosaries, Bibles, or Prayer books to the child.

Continued Faith Formation: After receiving First Holy Communion,

children are encouraged to continue their religious education in Sunday School and attend Mass regularly. This ongoing formation helps them grow in their faith and understanding, as they now begin to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Note: For adults, as explained in April 2024 Com-union issue, the Sacrament of First Holy Communion is given together with Baptism and Confirmation after completing the RCIA programme.

Dr. Johnson George,
Catechist, St. Nicholas Community

Q&A ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST

1. What is Transubstantiation and how is Christ present in the Eucharist?

From Latin trans = through, and substantia = essence / substance, Transubstantiation is the theological term used by the Catholic Church to explain how Jesus can be present under the appearance of the gifts of bread and wine in the Eucharist. At the time of Consecration during Mass, by the power of the Holy Spirit and by the words of Christ, the “substances” (meaning the “essences”) of bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, their outward “species” or forms remain the same. In other words, after Consecration the bread and wine get completely changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, but the look, feel and taste continue to be that of bread and wine.

In the Eucharist “the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore the whole

Christ, is truly, really and substantially contained.” Council of Trent (1551)

2. Why do we receive only the “Body of Christ” and not the “Blood of Christ”?

According to Canon Law, Holy Communion can be given under the form of bread alone, or under both species according to the norm of the liturgical laws, or even under the form of wine alone in a case of necessity. (Code of Canon Law, Canon 925)

However, for pastoral reasons, e.g. the number of faithful attending Mass is large, it is more practical to give Communion under the form of bread alone. One still receives all the fruit of Eucharistic grace, as Christ is sacramentally present fully under each of the species.

In certain cases where the congregation is small and in special Eucharistic celebrations, like First Holy Communion, Confirmation or Weddings, the

Priest gives Communion under both species.

3. What is Viaticum?

Vi-at-icum is a Latin word that means “food for the journey.” The Church offers as nourishment the Eucharist to those who are in danger of death and about to leave this life. Communion in the Body and Blood of Christ is the seed of eternal life and the power of resurrection, and hence has particular significance and importance for those on the point of death.

Even if the Christian faithful have already received Holy Communion, but on that same day their health deteriorates and are in danger of death, the Church strongly recommends them to receive Communion again. While the danger of death lasts, it is recommended that Holy Communion be administered often, but on separate days, provided they are fully conscious. (Code of Canon Law, Canon 921)

4. Can I receive Holy Communion twice in one day?

The Church allows a person who has already received the Most Holy Eucharist at Mass, to receive it a second time on the same day (e.g. at a wedding or funeral Mass) provided he / she participates fully in that Eucharistic celebration. (Code of Canon Law, Canon 917).

5. Being late for Mass...?

Arriving on time shows respect for the sacredness of the Mass and reverence for the presence of God. Being present from the beginning allows for full participation in the Liturgy. The Penitential Rite, Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist are all important parts of the Mass. The Blessing and Dismissal conclude the Mass. Hence it is important to be present for the whole Mass. However, in an emergency, if one is late, the Lord understands.

| Dr. Johnson George & Adrian Viegas

THE POWER OF PRESENCE: VISITING THE HOMEBOUND

In a world where busy schedules and social media connections often dominate our lives, it is easy to overlook the importance of physical presence and human connection.

One group that often feels this isolation are the homebound – individuals who, due to illness, disability or age, are confined to their homes and struggle to engage with the outside world. Visiting the homebound can have a



profound positive impact on their mental and emotional well-being.

This, a simple yet powerful act of kindness, brings hope, joy and connection

with those who need it most. By being present and showing we care, we brighten up their lives and our own.

So, take the time to visit, listen and share – you never know the difference it might make to the homebound person.

We thank our community coordinator and the team of animators for visiting the homebound in our community and truly making them feel loved and cared for.

Nikhil Menezes,
Infant Jesus Community

ST. PIUS X INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LEADS THE WAY



St. Pius X International School, Mulund was delighted to host the first ever ‘**Cambridge Catholic Community Meet**’ in association with Cambridge on 8th July 2024, bringing together Catholic International Schools in Mumbai offering / intending to offer various Cambridge qualifications. The event brought together Managers, Principals, Coordinators and teachers of many reputed Catholic schools across Mumbai.

The programme witnessed valuable insights on the Cambridge pedagogy by eminent speakers: Ms. Alka Pandey, Academic Advisor, Cambridge

International, South Asia and Ms. Achama Mathew, Cambridge Accredited Trainer. This one-day event proved to be a pivotal platform for learning and collaboration among stakeholders, with an aim to shaping the future of ‘International Education’ for Catholic Schools in Mumbai.

Fr. George Athaide, Managing Trustee of St. Pius X International School and the visionary behind this initiative, shared the best practices of our school, that have paved the way for securing a place as one of the best ‘Emerging International School’ by Times Education. He also

emphasized on continuing our common mission to educate students intellectually, spiritually, morally and physically **in an environment infused with Christian values**; and staying steadfast in our commitment to provide quality Catholic education to every child who seeks it.

Mr. Akshay Chopra, the Regional Manager, West and Central India, Cambridge, appreciated the efforts of our school in hosting this one-of-a-kind event. He expressed his keen desire to partner with Archdiocesan Board of

Education (ABE) schools to support their mission of delivering quality education to learners.

It was an enriching and enlightening programme for all the participants and they were thankful to our school for taking up this empowering initiative, which is a start to many new beginnings among Catholic International Schools in Mumbai.

Ms. Ayesha Gonsalves,
Centre Head, St. Pius X International School

LECTORS AND CANTORS' LENTEN PILGRIMAGE



For the first time, the Lectors and Cantors of our Parish went on a Lenten pilgrimage together to Don Bosco's Karjat on 9th March.

Fr. Anthony Santarita, the Programme Coordinator, warmly welcomed us and provided an overview of the site. **The Way of the Cross** is set up on a hilly terrain, with life-sized statues. Fr. Anthony encouraged us to present our intentions to the Lord and participate meaningfully in the Way of the Cross.

We gathered with a sense of solemn anticipation at the base of the hill, where the meticulously crafted Way of the Cross awaited us. As we prayed, meditated and sang at each Station, positioned along a winding path leading uphill, we experienced a unique spiritual conversion. Carrying the devotional props like the wooden cross, the crown of thorns and the nails, enabled us to contemplate the torture inflicted on Jesus in His final moments before the crucifixion.

The atmosphere was deeply reverential, fostering a profound spiritual connection as we contemplated the Passion and Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Our ascent was not merely physical, but a journey of the soul, each step taking us higher and drawing us closer to understanding the depth of Christ's love.

After completing the Way of the Cross, we descended to the Chapel for the Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Aaron. His homily echoed themes of redemption and renewal, reinforcing the spiritual journey we had just undertaken. The sense of community and shared experience persisted as we exchanged reflections and expressions of gratitude for the day's pilgrimage.

Later, Fr. Anthony guided us on a delightful tour of the grounds, explaining the strategic placement of the 14 life-sized Stations of the Cross and statues of Saints across the hill. He also highlighted various activities and adventure sports available for us to enjoy.

This Lenten pilgrimage was a transformative experience that deepened our faith and brought us closer to the essence of Lent - prayer, sacrifice and renewal. The day was characterized by spiritual enrichment, communal worship and profound reflections on the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Evana Cardoza (Lector & Cantor) and
Charlotte James (Lector)

IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:13

Based on this deep trust in Jesus, the SPARC Youth Group embarked on a transformative journey, bringing to life the shadow play – **"In His Footsteps"** on 22nd March 2024. This wasn't just a performance; it was an expression of faith, demonstrating the Passion of Christ in a way that words alone could never encapsulate.

With unwavering dedication the young performers, guided by Fr. George, led by Fr. Aaron and mentored by Mrs. Merlyn Fernandes, poured their hearts and souls into every rehearsal, wading through a sea of tears and tireless toil. Ms. Merlyn's relentless efforts in scriptwriting and directing, coupled with Fr. Aaron's guidance, elevated raw emotions to impactful performances, making each

scene a powerful declaration of faith. Ms. Padmaja's suggestions added that extra spark.



The interplay of light and shadow became a dance of divine grace, each movement touching hearts and stirring souls. The

cast navigated the emotional depths of each Station of the Cross - especially the 4th and 6th Stations, overcoming many technical challenges encountered in mirroring Christ's own journey. Yet, like His unconditional love, their commitment shone through every imperfection, moving the audience to silent prayer and deep reflection.



As the final shadow faded, the resounding applause from an appreciative congregation conveyed a clear message - "In His Footsteps" had transcended the confines of a mere performance... a story had not simply been retold, it had been relived in those few enlightening moments.

The role of the backstage projector manager, ensuring precise timing - crucial for the actors' cues, taught me and others to excel under pressure. Our sacrifices - late nights and parental concerns - instilled

patience, perseverance and teamwork. These experiences deepened my faith, transformed my heart towards Christ and laid the foundation for spiritual growth.

To my young friends considering SPARC: take this leap of faith. You'll nurture your talents, strengthen your spiritual foundation and forge lasting friendships. Trust in God's plan and witness the impact of collective efforts. Together, we will touch hearts and change lives.

Claista Moraes,
SPARC Core Team

SPARC BIBLE STUDY PROGRAMME

The St. Pius Army for Christ (SPARC) youth group had an enriching Bible study programme in April and July, led by Fr. Aaron, aimed at deepening the faith and understanding of our youth members. Around 35 youth attended, making it a significant success in bringing them closer to God and His Word. The interactive sessions, featuring questions and answers, helped explore the Scriptures in depth. Fr. Aaron's engaging explanations of Old Testament typology and its New Testament fulfillment sparked lively discussions and deep reflections.

In April, sessions were held focusing on the **Gospel of Mark**. The concise and action-packed narrative of Mark helped the youth explore the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ. Each participant was given a copy of the Ignatian Catholic Study Bible, which aided in understanding the typologies and narratives of the Scriptures.

In July, the sessions focused on the **Marian dogmas, apparitions and end-time themes**. These sessions helped the youth appreciate Mary's role in salvation



history and her importance in the Church, especially in light of current global events.

The programme culminated with the distribution of the “33 Days to Morning Glory” retreat book, so that starting from July 20th the youth could prepare to consecrate themselves to Mary, who is the quickest and surest path to Jesus.

Overall, the SPARC Bible study programme was a transformative

experience, enriching the spiritual lives of our youth and fostering a greater devotion to Mary. It demonstrated the power of structured, interactive Bible study in nurturing spiritual growth and bringing our youth community closer together.

Honbrie Mendonca,
SPARC Core Team

Note: My impression was that youth want only games, activities and fun. To have 35 youngsters, spending 25 hours in serious Bible study was a very happy surprise for me. Well done! - Fr. George Athaide

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SACRED HEART CHOIR: A JOURNEY OF LOVE AND HARMONY

'Our Hearts were made for you, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in you.'
- St. Augustine.

In 2009, we became a part of the music ministry of this vibrant Parish. We have been blessed with the opportunity to sing for Masses on Sundays, weekdays, Feasts and more. Each Mass we sing for is special to us and we strive to make every Eucharistic Celebration lively and prayerful.

In 2011, we decided to try singing in voices. We achieved this goal six years later when we sang the Christmas Gloria in four voices (SATB) for the first time. Since then, there has been no looking back.

Around a decade ago, we chose to function as a formal association to give our choristers the experience of working professionally and efficiently. We have separate committees responsible for Hymn selection, preparing presentations and handling instrumentalists and conductors, allowing us to groom more talent. Hymn lists are sent weekly for preparation at home, voice parts are learnt beforehand, and during the practice, we ensure that we harmonise well. Despite our careful preparation, we do make mistakes at times, but we take them as learning opportunities.

Whenever a new member joins, our joy is twofold: our family is blessed with



another addition, and we gain a soul eager to sing with us. We welcome all. We have members who are tone-deaf or unable to read music, but instead of letting these challenges hold them back, we help them improve and grow into musically-sound people.

All our choristers contribute remarkably. As a reward for the efforts we put in, as well as to socialise, we organise annual get-togethers, choir outings and picnics. Maintaining an environment where everyone is comfortable and all opinions are respected is very important to us.

It is said that when you sing, you pray twice. Since we began this journey, our choir has grown and we continue to evolve with each passing year. We welcome every youth to come and join us in praising the Lord through music.

Florence Vaz and Angela D'Souza,
Sacred Heart Choir

Thank You & Farewell



Fr. Gavin D'souza

Fr. Gavin D'Souza served in our parish for seven years. Under his leadership St. Pius X school has grown in leaps and bounds, the International School now stands on a strong foundation and the Sunday School has flourished with his affirming presence and hard work. His interactive Masses were well appreciated by the children. His visits in the Parish and availability to all has been very edifying. His passion for singing, his guidance in the SCCs and the various Cells, especially the Cantors and Lectors, has been of immense value. We offer Fr. Gavin a million thanks and pray for his continued priestly ministry in the future.



Sr. Celine

Sr. Celine Michael, CTC rendered her valuable services in the Parish and school for seven years. As a Sunday School animator, she prepared children for First Holy Communion. She was supervisor of the Pre-Primary section of the school. Soft spoken, loved by children, appreciated by the teachers and admired by the parents. Her regular visit to parishioners, especially the sick, was much cherished by all. She was superior of the convent for three years. We are grateful to her for her meaningful contribution to the life of the Parish and the school. We wish her God's blessings in her mission in Assam.



Sr. Seema

Sr. Seema, CJ has been with us for eight years; serving in the Sunday School, the SCCs and as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. With her quiet nature and a welcome smile, she has been much appreciated in the SCCs. We thank her for her ministry in the Parish, both in the Church and at St. Mary's High School; and wish her the very best in her new assignment, as superior at Nirmala Convent in Kerala.

Welcome

Fr. Norbert D'souza



Sr. Nithya



Sr. Basilio



ALTAR SERVERS OF OUR PARISH

Congratulations

Dn. Kenneth & Dn. Karthick



LECTORS AND CANTORS OF OUR PARISH

Happy Vianney Sunday



Parents & Grand Parents' Day 2024







TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE SCC ANIMATORS



**PRAYER SERVICE FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS
AT ST. ANDREW COMMUNITY**



INFANT JESUS COMMUNITY PRAYING THE ROSARY

PICNIC TIME FOR COMMUNITIES OF ST. JUDE AND ST. JOHN





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Community K
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Chris Crasto
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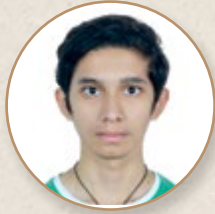
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Nathan D'Souza
Community H
HSC



Raizel D'Souza
Community K
HSC

SSC RESULTS

School	St. Pius X	St. Mary's Convent
Appeared	174	255
School Result	100%	100%
Above 90%	21	40
Distinction	89	115
1st Class	46	77
2nd Class	17	22
Pass Class	1	1

ALTAR SERVERS: ADDING GRACE AND REVERENCE TO THE LITURGY

It is a great joy to meet every Thursday and to be able to serve at Mass and other Liturgical functions in the Church. The appointments for serving are done by Mrs. Susie Gomes, the coordinator of the Altar Servers group, along with Honbrie and Lionel, the youth animators.

At our weekly Thursday meetings, we are trained to serve at Mass gracefully, adding reverence and solemnity to the Liturgy. We are also taught to serve at special occasions, like Weddings, Funerals and Confirmation Masses. It is interesting to know the names and descriptions of books, the vocabulary of the Liturgy, vessels, vestments, the seasons of the year and their importance.

Our meetings are followed by some recreational time, organized by Dn. Karthick and the youth Animators.

We play various indoor and outdoor games. We also have a movie time.

We eagerly look forward to our Annual picnic. On 17th June, we went to Chene Creek Resort to spend a day full of fun. We started early, after attending the 6:30 am Mass. There was a sumptuous breakfast awaiting us at the resort. After the breakfast, we enjoyed ourselves playing football, badminton, swimming in the pool or just running around. This made us very hungry and we relished the delicious spread for lunch. Our Spiritual guide, Fr. Aaron also played with us and made sure that we had an enjoyable day out.

Come, join us every Thursday at 5 pm in the Church.

Marc Rebello,
Altar Server

A SUMMER CAMP FILLED WITH GAMES, FRIENDSHIP AND ICED TANG



This year's summer camp, from 22nd April to 4th May, was not only a huge success, but also one of the most enjoyable events I have had the opportunity to be a part of. Being able to interact with about children from the Parish left all of us filled with energy and enthusiasm. I know it took me back to when I used to be one of them, waiting for the day when I'd be part of the youth group.

Be it organizing various games or distributing after-game snacks, it was always a delight to be around the little ones. Being given the opportunity to co-head this year's summer camp was indeed a journey filled with learning, fun and absolute excitement.

It is always a joy to see the sparkly smiles on the kids' faces after winning a game, and the sheer excitement to be present the next day longing for more.

The SPARC youth group, under the guidance of Fr. Aaron, took on the responsibility of being the backbone of the summer camp very well.

I am grateful to the Lord for the opportunity of being a part of the team and I eagerly look forward to many more SPARC events - for the young and old.

Raizel D'souza,
SPARC Youth Group

JOURNEYING IN FAITH THROUGH THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE



The Bible Cell, under Fr. Aaron Sequeira's spiritual guidance, conducts systematic **Bible Study every 2nd and 4th Thursday** from 7:45 pm to 9 pm in the AV Room, and **Vacation Bible Joy (VBJ)** for children during the vacations. An annual feature will be a Bible book stall and the Bible Quiz.

At the Parish level, we have journeyed in faith with St. Luke through the Gospel and the Book of Acts, and explored the Old Testament prophecies being fulfilled in the Gospel of Matthew.

This year, we have begun with The Catholic Letters in the New Testament and will move on to studying all the Minor Prophets of the Old Testament. Come, experience the infinite love of God, as we hear His voice through the prophets of old, beginning with Prophet Elijah on Mt. Carmel.

At the **SPARC Bible Study for youth**, Fr. Aaron had an enthusiastic group of around 35 youth follow the Ignatius Study Bible, first getting to know 'who Jesus really is', through the Gospel of Mark

and now loving His mother, through an in-depth study of Mama Mary.

A first-time initiative was the **Hindi-Marathi Bible study** on the Book of Jonah, reaching out to other language groups, and especially those in the RCIA program. This class is being conducted every alternate month on Saturdays after the evening Mass in the AV Room.

At the Community level, Bible Study is being conducted in the communities

in coordination with the Community Coordinator. Do reach out to us to fix up a convenient day and time, either monthly or bi-monthly for Bible Study in your community.

A community / zonal wise ‘Bible-Reading Marathon’ is also on the cards. Stay tuned.

Reena Poddar,
Bible Cell

TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE SCC ANIMATORS

Sunday, 7th July will be a day to remember for the SCC Animators of our Parish. Fr George, ably assisted by Reena Poddar and Lloyd Rego, organised a training program for the Animators – for the first time in five years. The response, with some urging, turned out to be very encouraging, with 181 Animators participating.

Everything was very systematically planned. The evening began at 4:15 pm with tea and biscuits. Our badges had our Community Alphabet and the Zone in Roman numerals. The 22 Communities of the Parish were divided into 7 Zones and the Animators were seated accordingly.

The Resource persons, well recognized by the Archdiocese of Bombay - **Mr. Roland Rapose and Mr. Adrian Rosario** - kept us engaged with their very informative and interactive sessions, even taking the trouble to use our names in their narratives. They provided guidance on how the monthly meetings should be conducted. We also learnt how to be good and welcoming animators with their

Effective Communication tips. The enactment gave a clear message, simple enough to remember for a lifetime. The focus was on developing the art of empathetic listening – how to be a good listener: not just hearing words, but being present to the person. We should be calm and not lose our temper, even if we feel that what is being said is not fully right or even if we do not agree. The families should always feel that they are important to us and that we are genuinely interested in listening to them and in trying to resolve their issues.

Fr. Norbert shared with us the beautiful and thought-provoking **Parents and Grandparents Day Petition Card** that was given out at the Training Program. It was so easy for the Community Coordinator to immediately hand the cards to the Cluster Animators, who would distribute it to the 5 to 10 families in their care. It gave an opportunity to us animators to put our newly acquired Visiting and Communication skills into practice!

Adrian's session was interspersed with witty quips, which ensured he had our attention. He took us through the history and formation of SCCs. Inspired by the Latin American Basic Christian Communities of the 1970s, Bishop Bosco Penha, pioneered Basic Christian Communities (BCC) in Mumbai. By 1986, around 26 Parishes were participating in the program. Today, it is known as Small Christian Communities (SCC) and is a way of life, all over Mumbai and in other dioceses of India as well, with Cluster formation in the community, better participation, Gospel sharing, meeting and connecting, and reaching out in service. The VISION - MISSION of SCCs for the Archdiocese of Bombay is **"NO ONE SHOULD BE IN WANT"** - Acts 4:34

He brought out aspects that deter community members from participating, interacting, or coming forward, and got us to think about ways of getting people involved. Today we are familiar with the term Influencer on social media. He suggested using the 'Influencer' children / youth to encourage and motivate other



element of fun and entertainment. In closing, Fr. George gave us some valuable tips: 1. Community coordinators, who have completed their term of service, should continue to be animators and guide the team. 2. Community coordinators should avoid keeping cash with them. One should have a program and settle the accounts with the Church office right away.

Fr. Aaron then shared the plans for Parents Day and Monsoon Madness, and took our opinion regarding whether the contests should be Community-wise or Zone-wise.

A sumptuous dinner, accompanied by party music, brought the eventful evening to a close. It was such a joy and also a humbling experience, to see all our Spiritual Animators - our Sisters of both convents, Deacon and our Priests - also sitting along with us for the entire Training. We are grateful to Fr. George, Reena and Lloyd for making this evening so special for all of us Animators.



children / youth to come forward to help or participate in activities.

Many spot prizes were given away during the evening, which added an

SCC Animators

Hazel Toscano (Comm B), Norbert Sequeira (Comm K), Gilbert Fernandes (Comm M) & Sabina Madhavan (Comm O1).



The call to be Lector is a call to **proclaim the Word of God**. On 17th July 2024, our Parish Lectors received a comprehensive input on this priceless gift of God, the ability and the call to Proclaim ‘The Word’.

The resource person, Ms. Marcia DCunha, made us realise **how precious is the gift of speech and proclamation**.

“Had a deeper understanding of what it means to be a lector and how to make use of the gift of voice given to us to by God to be his Messenger to the people.” **Ryan Fernandes**

“I really liked when Marcia spoke about giving gifts to her nieces and nephews and their reactions of hugging her. I felt that when I, as a lector, proclaim God’s word, it’s like my gift that I am presenting to the congregation, and if I proclaim it well, they will surely interpret the right message. And accept the word of God joyfully.” **Myra D’souza**

“I was touched after realizing that I took my precious gift of speech for granted.

It’s a gift to be able to proclaim God’s Word with my speech. From hence forth I understood that I must practice enough to effectively proclaim in the Church.” **Kenneth Sequeira**

“The Gift of voice from God, the ability to speak, examination of the gift and the response to appreciate this gift is what touched me the most. The word must flow into our lives. We must travel in this journey to encounter Christ in our lives. God comes lovingly to meet us. We are God’s children. God has a message for us through the lectionary. Are we communicating this message?” **Marishka Dias**

“Proclaimers of the Word” was the term used by late Fr. Aniceto Nazareth, a musician and liturgist. To proclaim effectively, a lector needs to **Pray, Prepare, Practice and then Proclaim**.

“The 4 Ps of a Lector are to be Prepared, to Practice, to Pray and to Proclaim. In Sacred Scripture, God comes lovingly to meet us. We are God’s Children and God has one message for us through the

Lectionary - I LOVE YOU and we are called to communicate this message of LOVE!" Smita D'silva

"What touched me was that we need to go on reading the text, so that we understand it better and can then proclaim the Word with power, thereby touching the hearts of people like in the book of Nehemiah." **Hyacinth Rebeiro**

"The session taught me the art of Biblical pronunciation, delivery style, pauses, expression and eye contact." **Josephine Fernandes**

A solemn **Rite of Commissioning** was conducted by Fr. George, the spiritual director of Lectors.

"The words during the commissioning service were most encouraging and it challenged us first to keep the command of Love, which our Lord has given, as we present ourself to be His instruments. We in ministry are servants of God. We are servants who have already been paid in full and so we need to be there when called to serve. Also, we need to keep an ear open to feedback." **Smita Anthony**

We pray that this training will help all Lectors and that the Commissioning has empowered us with grace to serve in this ministry.

I Lectors Ministry

PRAYER SERVICE FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS – ST. ANDREW COMMUNITY (A)

Our children - Keegan, Avelyn, Jaden, Kiara and Karen - will receive their First Holy Communion this year, and what a beautiful initiation they had to the preparation for this Sacrament. On 9th June 2024, the AV Room was packed with our Community members and the Communicants' Godparents and family.

"The prayer service was a wonderful occasion, where the St. Andrew's Community came together as a family to bless and pray for all the children, who are going to receive their First Holy Communion this year." – Sangita D'Rozario (Avelyn's mother)

The Gospel was proclaimed (Luke 1:57-66 - The birth of John the Baptist), and we reflected on "**What then will this child be?**"

The children enacted a skit: 'Moses: I drew him out of the water' (Exodus chapter 1 & 2). It was so edifying to see the actors dressed perfectly, Moses, his parents and sister, the Princess, maids, midwives, Pharaoh, his bodyguards; playing their roles to the hilt. Not forgetting the commentators, who knew the script by heart.

'Remembrance' - a hymn on the Eucharist, was followed by "The Calling of Names of the Candidates." This acknowledges the child as a member of our community and expresses our joy with the parents and godparents. It is a "sending from the community" of the child to enter Sunday School preparation for membership at the Eucharistic table. Each child, with their parents, Godparents and grandparents came forward.



“As I witnessed the skit and prayer service for our First Holy Communicants, I was struck by the joy and devotion of these young children as they took this important step in their faith journey.” – Subha Nadar (Jaden’s mother)

After intercessory prayers, Fr. Norbert D’Souza and Fr. Aaron Sequeira, placed their hands over each child and blessed

them, and the Community presented them with a bookmark and a rose, as a sign of their commitment to pray for them.

Fellowship followed with a nice snack, a homemade cake and cold-drink and a packet of Little Hearts to commemorate the Feast of Sacred Heart.

“We wish to thank our Community Coordinator, Reena Poddar and her

team of Animators, especially, Catherine Pius and Sharon Britto, who helped in training the children for the skit.” – Arlette Martis (Keegan’s mom)

Our children will cherish this day always!

Arlette Martis, Subha Nadar, Sangita D’Rozario, Sharon Britto & Catherine Raj

STRENGTHENING UNITY THROUGH PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP - INFANT JESUS COMMUNITY (C)

We celebrated our **Community Feast** on 18th February with a Thanksgiving Eucharist in the Church and an evening of fun and fellowship in the School Hall. The get-together began with a song dedicated to the Infant Jesus. A time of joy and celebration followed, beginning with a Community March, exciting group games and spot prizes conducted by our in-house compere Mr. Jerry D’souza. The happiness and enthusiasm could be seen in all as they bonded with each other during the games. After all the fun, it was time to relish a delicious dinner. Laughter, fellowship



and togetherness filled the memorable evening.

The Community Way of the Cross was held on 15th March, where we meditated on the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each Station was read by a community member with the reflection read by all. We took turns in holding the Cross, symbolizing our concern for each other.

Throughout the month of May, we prayed the **Rosary** together, seeking Mother Mary's blessings and strengthening our unity. After Rosary, members interacted with one another over snacks and games on the weekends. Mother's Day was celebrated on 12th May by cutting a small

cake with the mothers in our community. We thank all our mothers for their hard work, dedication and support not only to their families, but also to the community.

On 31st May, the Rosary began with members offering flowers at the Grotto of our Blessed Mother. After the Rosary, we had fun time with games, spot prizes and a Solo singing competition, with participants across all age groups showcasing their talent. The evening ended on a high note with a delicious community dinner and members left with cherished memories of praying, laughing and fellowshiping together.

| Rowan D'souza

SUMMER TIME BONDING - ST. JUDE COMMUNITY (F)

On 21st April, the members of St. Jude Community went for a **picnic** to Green Hills Resort at Nalasopara. We sang all the way to the resort, with our senior citizens singing old picnic songs that some of us had almost forgotten.

There were some who were attending the picnic for the first time and so we made new friends. We enjoyed in the swimming pool, playing water throw ball and other games. After lunch we had fun with wonderful indoor games. Everyone had a nice time including our senior citizens, who enjoyed the rain dance and participated enthusiastically in



the games too. We were all high in spirits and had a wonderful and memorable day as one big happy family.

Every May, being the 'Month of Mamma Mary', we pray the **Rosary** together in Shiv Darshan Society. What started as a

Colony Rosary in 1975, is now celebrated by the entire Community. The Rosary is prayed at 8 pm sharp and after that snacks are offered voluntarily by various families throughout the month. It is during this time that we, as a community gather, share, discuss and spend time with each other. Most of the families from our community participate actively, being punctual, helping in printing hymn sheets, distributing snacks and planning for the next day.

On 31st May, the last day of the Rosary, we decorated the backdrop with colorful lights and flowers. The statue of Our Lady of Fatima, adorned with garlands, was taken in a procession in the society compound. After the Rosary, everyone enjoyed the delicious snacks and cold drinks, along with an exciting game of Housie.

| Sophia D'Mello, MariaRita and
| Marlene Mascarenhas

CREATING CHERISHED MEMORIES – ST. JOHN COMMUNITY (J1)

On a bright Saturday morning on 8th June, we embarked on a picnic to the Green Hill Resorts at Nalasopara. Road repairs and massive traffic jams resulted in us spending most of the morning on the road and we wondered how the rest of the day would go. Our children and senior citizens, however, were the game changers, and their infectious enthusiasm dispelled all apprehensions. One could see the young and old playing in the pool, enjoying the rides, the rain dance and some just relaxing.

While the traffic delay was undoubtedly a challenge, it became a part of our adventure and added a memorable twist to our picnic day story. It reminded us to embrace the unpredictability of life's journey and find joy in the moments shared with the loved ones. In the end our picnic turned out to be everything we had hoped for - a perfect blend of relaxation, laughter and cherished memories.

Earlier in the year, as a part of our Lenten activities, we visited **Prem Dan at Airoli**. We witnessed firsthand the legacy of compassion, humility and dedication



that Mother Theresa has left behind. At the ashram, we attended Holy Mass and then served breakfast to the residents. Serving them was sheer joy and was a poignant reminder of the power of love and kindness in transforming lives. We also gave a cake and donated ration and toiletries to the Sisters for distribution. On another occasion, our community distributed footwear to the poor, bringing smiles to many.

The strength of a community lies in its collective ability to foster a sense of belonging among its members; and hence we have activities like praying the Rosary, celebrating senior citizens' birthdays and supporting members in need.

| Cliffla Cardoso

LIVE TO LOVE VALENTINES – ST. VALENTINE COMMUNITY (L)

During the month of May, we prayed the **Rosary** daily, with many families, especially the elders, actively participating. Mother's Day was celebrated on 12th May, the mothers in our community cut a cake after the Rosary. Those who attended the Rosary regularly were felicitated with gifts on the last day.



On 8th June, we went for a fun-filled **picnic** to Green Hills Resort. Along the way, we had fun singing songs and snacking on food that several members had prepared for the trip. We enjoyed the rain dance and swimming pool at the resort. Our youth entertained us with 'Malamaal Housie' and a variety of games, with lots of prizes to be won. We returned home with wonderful memories.

On 4th July our animators visited **Umed**, a specially designed center for Differently Abled run by the Diocese of Vasai. This center empowers adults with physical and intellectual disabilities to lead successful lives through specialized training courses and professional support. We celebrated a Thanksgiving Eucharist and shared a meal together.

30th June was a blessed and joyful day for our community as our member **Bro. Kenneth Pinto** was ordained a temporary Deacon at St. Pius X Seminary. We eagerly wait and pray for his Priestly Ordination in March 2025.

We are thrilled to welcome new families into our community. Their presence enriches our neighbourhood and we look forward to getting to know each one of them well in the coming days.

| Sybil Lobo

COMMEMORATIVE PRAYER SERVICE AT MULUND CEMETERY

On 22nd June 2024, the Mulund East Cemetery hosted a profoundly moving Prayer Service. The event was meticulously planned by the Mulund Cemetery Committee, bringing together 24 Member Churches to honor the departed souls and reflect on their memories.

pun, he complemented the work at the cemetery, saying that the renovation work was done so beautifully that "all would die to come here."

Fr. George Athaide introduced the evening's service, welcoming everyone and setting a respectful tone for the proceedings. In a lighter vein using a

The prayer service was conducted by various churches with the Immanuel Prayer House, Amala Mata Church and St. Pius X Church leading us in Praise and Worship. Rev. Fr. Shajan Varghese Mathew of St. John's Marthoma Church, Rev. Fr. Wilson Cor Episcopa from St. Gregorious Jacobite Syrian Church and

Rev. Kawathekar from MMCM CNI Mulund led the gathering in prayer.

Most Reverend Bishop Allwyn D'Silva gave a sermon on the comforting theme **"Come to me, I will give you rest."** His words provided solace and hope, resonating deeply with everyone present. He spoke with a gentle authority, reminding the congregation of the Eternal Rest promised to the faithful.

Bro. D. D. Tribhuvan spoke on the theme **"I am the Resurrection and the Life,"** reinforcing the promise of the resurrection and eternal life.

Bishop Allwyn imparted a special blessing, marking a profound moment in the service. The blessing was a symbol of divine grace and protection, cherished by all.

Lloyd Rego from the Mulund Cemetery Committee presented a captivating history of the cemetery through a detailed PowerPoint presentation. Bro. D. D. Tribhuvan introduced the dignitaries

present, highlighting their contributions. Pastors presented bouquets to honor them, creating a moment of recognition and gratitude.

Mr. Charanjit Singh Sapra briefly touched upon the history of the Mulund Cemetery, the 'second coin collection' in Church, his long association with St. Pius X School as a student and his sentiments for the teachings of Christ.

Bro. Paul Joseph led the congregation in a closing prayer, followed by the Hymn **"Bind Us Together."** Jude Fernandes, President Mulund Cemetery Committee offered a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all the sponsors, participants and organizers.

The prayer service at the Mulund Cemetery succeeded in bringing together diverse groups in a shared moment of reflection and reverence, honoring the departed, while fostering a sense of community unity and spiritual solace.

| Jude Fernandes & Lloyd Rego

ST. PIUS X CHURCH CENSUS – AN UPDATE

St. Pius X Parish has always been known for its vibrance and buzz, thanks to its active and participative Parishioners. It's almost a year since we undertook a census to understand the needs of our individuals, families, clusters and communities. The exercise was initiated in September 2023 using the Google Form. The SCC Coordinators and Animators put in a lot of work and effort, following up with their communities and clusters, getting families to fill the required details.

We took stock of the inputs in January 2024 and realized that 23% of

families had not enrolled themselves. The collected data was analysed and while there were a lot of good findings, we also recognised that there were some anomalies in the data, e.g. duplicate entries / errors in birth dates.

The information was shared with the SCC Community Coordinators, who took up the challenge to visit the families that were yet to enroll. In certain cases where the data was incorrect, the volunteers re-approached those families to rectify the inputs. All this took time.

In July 2024, based on the demographics and consultations within the PPC, it was decided to divide the T Zone, which is spread across three different geographical locations in Mulund. This would make it convenient for the community to interact better and participate in activities. The new communities are:

- T1 - Indira Nagar, alongside the railway lines from Gala Nagar and Mehul theatre to Ashok Nagar
- T2 - Vaishali Nagar - pipe lines (behind R-Mall)
- T3 - Vijay Nagar, alongside the railway lines from Gala Nagar to Vani Vidyalaya

With this division, our Parish now has 24 Communities. To improve the coordination, these 24 Communities have been tentatively collated into 7 Zones, based on their geographical affinity.

A detailed list of the Zones and Communities is mentioned below:

Zone	Community
I	A - St. Andrew B - St. Blaise E - OL of Lourdes
II	C - Infant Jesus G - St. Francis Xavier T 3 - St. Mary's (Vijay Nagar)
III	F - St. Jude H - St. Helen I - St. Ignatius
IV	D - King David J1 - St. John J2 - Holy Spirit K - St. James T 1 - St. Mary's (Indira Nagar)

Zone	Community
V	L - St. Valentine O1 - St. Theresa O2 - OL of Velankanni
VI	M- St. Michael N - St. Nicholas T 2 - St. Mary's
VII	P - St. Anthony Q - O. L. Fatima R - St. Joseph S - St. Paul



Collating data and making sense of it has been a challenge, as we have a peculiar situation in Mulund. Since we started the data gathering exercise in September 2023, there has been an increase in home relocations due to redevelopment. This alters the cluster, community and (now) the zone too and makes it difficult to keep our data up to date.

Nonetheless, with the support of our Priests, SCC Community Coordinators, the Animators and all our Parishioners, we will work through these challenges. Our intention is to freeze the inputs soon, before we link the data with the existing Parish system that maintains and records the data of all Parishioners.

If you require assistance, please approach your Community Coordinator or Cluster Animator for help or message the Parish Priest, Fr. George Athaide on 98202 14844.

| Lloyd Rego & Reena Poddar

BIDDING ADIEU TO A FAITHFUL DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

On 28th June 2024, Alan Collaco, an intrepid soldier of Christ, was called to reap his heavenly reward after long and arduous labour in the vineyard of the Lord. Armed with a corporate background in HR & Training (he was a GM at Hoechst Pharmaceuticals), Alan contributed to the Training of Animators of the Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese as part of the Core Team of the Training of Trainers (TOT), and then the Training of Animators (TOA) for almost 25 years.



Alan had an outstanding ability to simplify the most complex learning into easily digestible sound bites, weaving in his unique brand of deadpan humour that

enlivened the most staid environment, and roused even the most chronic somnolent. He had a deep insight into the psyche of a participant, and was able to transform any die-hard critic of training into an ardent advocate. He was an active member of the erstwhile FILMC Team (SCC animating group) and was the Thane Deanery SCC Coordinator.

In his homily at the funeral Mass, Fr. George Athaide lauded the yeoman service rendered by Alan to the SCCs and Confirmation programmes in his Parish of St Pius X, Mulund. May his soul rest in everlasting peace.

Thomas Lobo,
Goregaon

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TRIDUUM AND PARISH FEAST THEMES

MAIN THEME: “ To always be close to JESUS, that’s my life plan” Bl. Carlo Acutis

Date	Focus	THEME - Quotes of Bl Carlos Acutis	Quotes of St. Pius X
21.08.24 Feast	ADORING <i>Eucharistic adoration</i> Worshipping the Living God	When we stand before Jesus we become saints.	Perpetual adoration of the most blessed sacrament is a devotion which surpasses all other devotions.
22.08.24 Feast of Queenship of Mary	BEARER <i>Mary</i> Indwelling of the Eucharist	After the holy Eucharist, the holy rosary is the most powerful weapon for fighting the devil & the shortest ladder to heaven.	Among all the devotions approved by the Church none has been so favored by so many miracles as the devotion of the Most Holy Rosary.
23.08.24 Healing Service	PARTAKING <i>Holy Communion</i> Intimate Union with Christ	The more Eucharist we receive the more we will become like Jesus	Devotion to the Eucharist is most profitable for salvation because it gives us the author of grace
24 th /25 th PARISH FEAST	HOLY EUCHARIST Our Highway to Heaven	The Holy Eucharist is my highway to Heaven	Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to heaven

St. Pius X Church, Mulund | Triduum in preparation of Feast of St. Pius X, Patron of the Parish | 2024

THANK YOU, DENNIS



MR. DENNIS RODRIGUES joined the Com–Union magazine team in the year 2006. He took charge of securing advertisements for the magazine and certainly did an excellent job. He would personally visit banks, big shops and companies that he was familiar with. Because of his genial nature and his smile, nobody sent him back empty handed. Most of the time, the advertisements that he secured covered the cost of the magazine. Once the bulletin came to the parish house from the press, he would overnight, single-handedly and meticulously count and put them into bundles and label them community wise to be collected.

We will miss uncle Dennis as he moves to Thane to spend time with his family.

Thank you, Dennis for your meritorious service to **Parish COM-UNION**.

WELCOME TO THE ST. PIUS FAMILY



PARENTS' NAMES	CHILD'S NAME	BAPTISM DATE
Jonathan and Rachel Rebeiro	Levi	24.03.2024
Pamdurang and Hausa Salvi	Islamunnisha	31.03.2024 (RCIA)
Sunil and Valentina Sawant	Sailesh	31.03.2024 (RCIA)
Dattaram and Madhuri Hujare	Nikita	31.03.2024 (RCIA)
Roland and Alannah Pinto	Jordan	07.04.2024
Clinton and Renita Dias	Ronan	21.04.2024
Maria Raja and Antony Athina	Jowin	12.05.2024

WISH YOU A HAPPY MARRIED LIFE



NAMES	WEDDING DATE
Agnel Sequeira and Azellia Dominica Lopes	07.04.2024
Subodh Yadav and Liesel Mary Goveas	12.04.2024
Arvind Gudinho and Santoshi Shantappa Nadimeri	29.04.2024

MAY YOU REST IN PEACE



NAME	AGE	RETURNED TO GOD
Chhaya Pius Gonsalvis	62 yrs	17.03.2024
Luvis Intru Rebello	79 yrs	02.04.2024
Perpetuo Socorro Isabel Fernandes	92 yrs	21.04.2024
James Valerian Sequeira	87 yrs	13.05.2024
Agnes John Barboza	88 yrs	26.05.2024
Padma Christy Mathews	44 yrs	29.05.2024
Anita Lepoldin Pereira	80 yrs	02.06.2024
Eliza Lewis	74 yrs	06.06.2024
Alan Joseph Collaco	75 yrs	28.06.2024
Severine Lewis	92 yrs	01.07.2024
Mary Paul Sequeira	92 yrs	03.07.2024
Chauncy Jullian Monteiro	60 yrs	20.07.2024
Arvind Kapoor Singh	45 yrs	23.07.2024
Austin Listen D'souza	59 yrs	24.07.2024
Constantine Pereira	91 yrs	26.07.2024
Xavier Dias	92 yrs	05.08.2024

QUIZ ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST

1. In the Bible, where do we first come across Bread and Wine being offered?

2. The oldest account that we have of the events at the Last Supper is recorded by which **Apostle**, in which book of the Bible?

3. Which miracle of Jesus prefigures what Jesus did at the Last Supper?

4. In Chapter 6 of the Gospel according to St. John, during the Discourse on the Bread of Life, why did many of the disciples and followers of Jesus leave him?

5. When did Jesus institute the Holy Eucharist?

6. Where did Christ institute the Holy Eucharist?

7. On which day do we celebrate the Institution of the Holy Eucharist by Jesus?

8. Which Feast honours the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist?

9. The Liturgy of the Mass is divided into what two parts?

10. When the Priest says, "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world," who is he quoting?

11. When receiving Communion, what is the correct response to "The Body of Christ"?
a) Thank You b) Amen c) God bless d) All of the above
12. Who is an Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion?
a) Lay people b) Priest c) Altar servers d) Deacon
13. Which are the Sacraments of Christian initiation in the Catholic Church?

- Answer the quiz, tear off this sheet, and put it in the box outside the Parish Office by 31st August 2024.

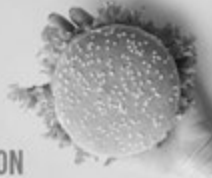
NAME: _____ MOBILE: _____ COMMUNITY: _____

Winners of "Quiz on the Resurrection" - April 2024

Paul Fernandes, Grace D'Mello, Honbrie Mendonca, Nigel Cherian, Christina D'Souza, Irene Castelino



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