



Our Lady of Grace Church, Margao
KURPECHIM KIRNNAM
GRACE NEWS

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FIRGOZ MAHITI

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At Your Service

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Pri. Joseph da Silva, PS

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Parish Office Timings

Daily: Morning: 9:00 - 1:00 Evening: 3:00 - 5:30

Office is closed on Saturday evening and Sunday

Masses

Church:

Sundays:

Mornings: 6:00, 7:00, 8:00,

9:15(English)

Evening: 5:30

Sunday mass on Saturday at 6:00 pm.

Chapel:

Sunday mass on Saturday in

Pedda or Sirvodem Chapel

6:30 pm and Sunday

at 7:30 am.

Monday-Saturday:

Morning: 6:30, 7:15, 8:50 and Evening: 5:40

Administration of Sacraments

BAPTISM: The parents and godparents (sponsors) should attend the Baptismal Instructions on the previous Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Baptisms will be administered on 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

MARRIAGE: The Parish Office should be informed at least three (3) months in advance for marriage instructions (4 sessions on Fridays at 6:30pm.) The paper work (formalities) can be done only on a Monday at 10:00 a.m.

SICK CALLS: We are available at any time. But, it would be better to inform the Parish Office/Priest if you know anyone is sick at home/hospital scheduled for surgery or elderly.

REGISTRATION: Our warmest welcome to all who worship in our Parish Community. If you Are not registered in the parish, step in or call at the parish office and put yourselves on our Parish Record.



PRAYING FOR THE DEAD

Death is not the end of our life's story; we believe in a God who escaped the tomb, rose from it, transcended death, and, is proclaimed the Author of Life. Looking across the many graves in a cemetery, one can seem to catch a glimpse, if only for a moment, of what it will be like on that much anticipated Great Day. Then those who lie in dust, whether encased in a grand tomb or in a humble unmarked grave, shall hear the same Trumpet blast and its summons to gather.



We, all long to be with the Lord after journeying through this earthly life. But the question we need to ask ourselves, if I'm called tonight **“Am I worthy to stand before the Lord ?”**. Perhaps **NO !!!**. I know my weakness, my shortcomings, my failures and my struggles to live my Christian calling. Therefore I need the prayers and sacrifices of my loved ones. This is precisely the reason why our Mother Church, in her infinite wisdom through ***The Catechism of the Catholic Church*** teaches us: *“We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church;”* So, then, we are all united in Christ: those of us on earth walking towards our eternal and permanent home, called heaven; those who have died and are being purified in purgatory before entering heaven, and those already in heaven seeing God face to face. Together we form one Church.

Those who die in grace and holiness at the time of death enjoy with God the life of heaven coz they lived the life of God, that is, the life of love. But many who die in sin they need the process of purification before seeing the face of God, they need to be cleansed.....this process is called PURGATORY and these brethren in purgatory need our prayers. So the Church is giving us this special month of November to pray for those in Purgatory.

So let us remember them and pray for them that **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**

Fr. Joe A. Rodrigues
Parish Priest

OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER IS SO SHORT

— AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL OF US

A young lady sat in a bus. At the next stop a talkative and fat old lady came and sat near her. She squeezed into the seat and bumped her with her numerous bags.

The person sitting on the other side of the young lady got upset, asked her why she did not speak up and say something.

The young lady responded with a smile:

"It is not necessary to be rude or argue over something so insignificant; **the journey together is so short.** I will get down at the next stop."



This response deserves to be written in golden letters: **"Our Journey together is so short"**

If each one of us realized that our time here on earth is so short, that to darken it with quarrels, futile arguments, not forgiving others, discontentment and a fault finding attitude would be a waste of time and energy. The word of God clearly says *"They are filled with all kinds of wickedness, evil, greed, and vice; they are full of jealousy, murder, fighting, deceit, and malice. They gossip and speak evil of one another; they are hateful to God, insolent, proud, and boastful; they think of more ways to do evil; they disobey their parents"* (Rom 1:29-30)

Did someone break your heart? *Be calm, **the journey together is so short.***

St. Paul says *"Be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another."* (Eph 4:2)

Did someone betray, bully, cheat or humiliate you? *Be calm, forgive and pray for them, **the journey together is so short.*** Jesus says *"But I tell you who hear me: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who ill-treat you."* (Lk 6:27-28)

Whatever troubles anyone brings us, let us remember that ***our journey together is so short.***

No one knows the duration of this journey. No one knows when their stop will come. ***Our journey together is so short.***

Let us cherish friends and family. Let us be respectful, kind, loving and forgiving to each other. *"Forgive your brother from your heart."* (Mt 18:35)

After all, ***Our Journey Together is so Short!***

Fr. Joseph da Silva

Circular Letter

To the Clergy ministering in the Churches and Chapels of this Archdiocese On Resuming Masses with a Congregation

Dearly Beloved,

In our Circular Letter CP-Cir/13/2020, dated 19th March 2020, we had advised the Faithful not to attend Mass “as a precautionary measure against a possible onslaught of the pandemic in our midst.” Priests were, however, to celebrate Mass without a congregation and remain in contact with their Faithful, being always in the front line to offer spiritual and other help to their flock.

On 24th June 2020, through our Circular CP-Cir/69/2020, keeping the recommendations of the civil authorities in mind, we had appealed to our Priests to gradually reopen the places of worship, after seeking the necessary permission and following the safety protocols and other liturgical instructions.

We are happy to note that, till date, 91 Parish Churches, besides several other places of worship, have begun Masses with a congregation, albeit small. This is certainly a matter of joy! However, a good number of Priests in charge of Churches/Chapels are still to ask permission and begin services for their Faithful who are longing to go to Church and participate in the liturgical celebrations, particularly the Holy Eucharist.

During his Mass at Santa Marta on 17th April, 2020, **Pope Francis advised against making the Church and Sacraments virtual.** He was reflecting about the Faithful not being able to come together as a community to celebrate Mass or to receive the Sacraments. Indeed, we cannot be Church without living as a community that gathers physically around the altar and partakes of the Sacraments. Mere spiritual unity is not sufficient; we do not become Church by living as individuals and 'celebrating' our community only online. It is true that, after the first fright caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, a whole unprepared world was taken by surprise; however, it is now time to return to being a Church that gathers concretely as an assembled community, even though in small numbers. While people in general are returning to their daily chores and business, frequenting market places and travelling by public transport, we cannot afford to remain as an 'online community,' for fear of contamination.

Having taken note of the genuine joy that the process of the resumption of Masses in our Churches and Chapels has brought to our Faithful and heeding the various requests from our Faithful that community Masses should be resumed, we urge you hereby, dearly beloved Brothers in the Priesthood, not to delay further the reopening of those Churches and Chapels that are still closed, so as to help our Faithful to return to the active reception of the Sacraments.

We enjoin, therefore, all the concerned Priests to commence the necessary procedures without further delay and seek the required permission, so that **all Churches and Chapels with officially appointed Chaplains in our Archdiocese may resume communitarian liturgical services latest by the 15th of November, 2020**, observing the prescribed norms and cautions. Due attention should be paid that all the Faithful, including those considered vulnerable by reason of age or illness, are given an opportunity to take part in the Mass, provided adequate care is taken, even to the extent of having specially arranged celebrations.

I am reminded at this moment of our own Goan brother Priest, St. Joseph Vaz, who shone through his undaunted courage and Christian charity when he and his collaborators exposed themselves to contamination while they cared for the victims of a deadly small pox plague that was ravaging the kingdom of Kandy. Besides plain fulfilment of the Lord's commandment of Love, this was an act of

true heroism that led the king of Kandy – who himself had abandoned his people – to remark that “had it not been for Fr. Vaz, the Sovereign of Kandy would scarce have had a subject left in his capital!”

May our Christian charity and sense of pastoral responsibility rise to such standards and impel us to reopen the doors of our places of worship to our Faithful. May Mary, our Blessed Mother, who gathered the Apostles together in the Cenacle, inspire us to gather our flock once again as a living and concrete assembled community.

Archbishop's House, Panjim, Goa, 24th October, 2020.

Liturgical and Paraliturgical **GUIDELINES - III**

for the Re-opening of Sacred Places for Public Worship during the COVID-19 Pandemic

From the time the lockdown was imposed and our places of worship were closed to the Faithful, the yearning to go to Church and pray before the Lord and to encounter Him in the Sacred Liturgy has been growing steadily and substantially. With the restrictions being eased, the Archbishop has now permitted us to open the places of worship, only after complying with the necessary protocol. The following Guidelines, approved by the Archbishop, are to be followed strictly in this regard by all the Faithful in this Archdiocese.

1. General Directives

- 1.1 The “Coordinating Team” should review the situation from time to time.
- 1.2 During the time the place of worship remains open, the Coordinating Team is to ensure the security and safety of the place.
- 1.3 The Coordinating Team is to plan out measures for disinfection, sanitization, ushering, etc.
- 1.4 The wearing of face masks is compulsory at all times.
- 1.5 Expressions of socialization, like shaking of hands, hugging, etc. are to be avoided.
- 1.6 The Faithful entering the place of worship should have their hands sanitized and their temperatures checked with the assistance of assigned volunteers.
Only asymptomatic persons shall be allowed inside the premises.
- 1.7 Physical contact with 'high touch surfaces' like sacred images, door handles, railings, donation boxes, etc. should be avoided. Hymnals and other books / leaflets should not be kept in the place of worship nor brought by the Faithful.
- 1.8 The following persons who are considered 'vulnerable' are discouraged from visiting places of worship:
 - i. Those above 65 years of age;
 - ii. Those with comorbidities like hypertension, diabetes, heart, lung and kidney ailments, etc.;
 - iii. Those displaying symptoms like fever (37.5oC / 99.5oF and above) or common cold;
 - iv. Pregnant women;
 - v. Children below the age of 10 years;
 - vi. Those who have someone undergoing quarantine at home;
 - vii. Those who reside in containment / buffer zones or have visited the same

during the preceding 2 weeks.

- 1.9 Ushers and other volunteers should be present at the premises to assist the Faithful. They should not be from among the above-mentioned 'vulnerable' persons.
- 1.10 Physical distancing of 6 feet is a must for all the Faithful, whether seated or standing or walking.
- 1.11 Directives issued from time to time by the Central and State Governments are to be adhered to.

2. Private Prayer in the Places of Worship

- 2.1 We could start by opening our places of worship for private prayer.
- 2.2 Places of worship could be kept open for a few hours, daily, for the Faithful to come and pray. The timings are to be announced to the Faithful beforehand. Care should be taken that in the place of worship, at any given time, the number of Faithful by no means exceeds the number stipulated in the respective seating arrangement for which permission has been granted.
- 2.3 The Faithful visiting a sacred place should leave without much delay, especially when there are others waiting to enter.
- 2.4 Blessed Sacrament Chapels / Oratories / Prayer Rooms are to be kept closed.

3. Celebration of the Holy Mass

- 3.1 Gradually, the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a small congregation could be taken up.
- 3.2 The moral and canonical precept that requires participation in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation continues to remain suspended for all the Faithful of this Archdiocese (cf. Archbishop's Circular, CP-Cir/13/2020, dt. 19/03/2020).
- 3.3 The Priest in charge of the place of worship is to make a plan, in consultation with his Coordinating Team, so that all parishioners may have an opportunity to come to Mass in turns, sector-wise or ward-wise, spaced out over a period of time.
- 3.4 If the Priest is sick or has symptoms of fever / common cold, he should refrain from celebrating Mass. Alternate arrangements could be worked out by the Coordinating Team.
- 3.5 The number of the Faithful present at any Mass should by no means exceed the number stipulated in the respective seating arrangement for which permission has been granted.
- 3.6 In order to enable a greater number of Faithful to participate in the Mass, the number of Masses to be celebrated each day may be increased, if need be, with the help of the Religious Clergy and Priests from institutions, keeping in mind the norms of bination / trination and ensuring that an appropriate interval is kept between two successive Masses.
- 3.7 The sacristan / person who prepares the altar and handles altar linen, bread, wine, water, etc. needs to be given clear instructions regarding hygiene and sanitization. Care should be taken that these instructions are adhered to.
- 3.8 If there is singing during the liturgy, it should be minimal and undertaken by a cantor only. The congregation should not join in the singing.
- 3.9 The Priest / Deacon should venerate the altar and the Lectionary (at the end of the Gospel) with a profound bow and not with a kiss, nor a touch.

- 3.10 Sprinkling of Holy Water is not to be done.
- 3.11 There should be only one reader at a Mass.
- 3.12 The intentions for the Prayer of the Faithful may be announced in brief by the Priest himself, with intervening silence.
- 3.13 There should be no procession of gifts and no placing of hosts in the ciborium by the Faithful.
- 3.14 The ciborium should be kept closed and the chalice covered (with a pall) except when strictly necessary. The celebrant should take care not to lean over and breathe on the host/ chalice, especially at consecration time.
- 3.15 Collections are not to be made in the traditional way; offerings may be dropped in secured donation boxes. Online offerings may also be encouraged.
- 3.16 The Sign of Peace is to be exchanged only in the form of a bow with folded hands.
- 3.17 Holy Communion is to be distributed at the end of the Mass, as the Faithful leave the place of worship, so as to minimize unintended contamination of surfaces like pews, etc. after receiving Communion. The Minister should wear a mask and sanitize the hands before and after the distribution of Communion.
- 3.18 Communicants are not to receive Holy Communion on the tongue.
- 3.19 The sacred vessels and other objects like microphones, etc. should be sanitized after each Mass.
- 3.20 Care should be taken not to prolong the celebration of the Eucharist. Hence, non-essentials like introductory words and commentaries should be avoided, homilies should be kept short and announcements reduced to the bare minimum. Priests should try not to exceed 30 minutes for daily Mass and 45 minutes for the Sunday Eucharist.
- 3.21 Religious communities may have Masses for the members of their Institute and for the inmates they serve, provided:
 - i. The necessary sanitary measures and other precautions are taken;
 - ii. The local Parish Priest is informed;
 - iii. No outsiders attend these Masses.

4. Sacramentals and Devotional Practices

- 4.1 When requested, Priests should bless individuals without physically touching them and maintaining a distance of 6 feet. Conversely, the Faithful should not kiss the hands of a Priest.
- 4.2 The Faithful shall refrain from kissing statues, icons and relics. These sacred objects should be cordoned off and could be venerated with a bow made from a distance of 6 feet.
- 4.3 Flowers / candles should not be offered.

5. The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The directives issued earlier (cf. DCL/21/2020, dt. 23 March, 2020, Guidelines - I, no. 4) continue to be in force, keeping a distance of not less than 6 feet between the penitent and the priest.

6. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and the Viaticum

The directives issued earlier (cf. DCL/21/2020, dt. 23 March, 2020, Guidelines - I, no. 5) continue to be in force.

7. The Sacrament of Baptism

- 7.1 The number of the persons present at the Rite of Baptism should not exceed the number stipulated in the respective seating arrangement of the place of worship, even if infants to be baptized are more than one.
- 7.2 Other directives issued earlier (cf. DCL/21/2020, dt. 23 March, 2020, Guidelines - I, no. 6) continue to be in force.
- 8. The Sacrament of Marriage**
- 8.1 The nuptial Mass is to be celebrated with the Faithful not exceeding the number stipulated in the respective seating arrangement of the place of worship.
- 9. Celebration of Funerals and Memorial Masses for the Departed**
- 9.1 The number of Faithful for a funeral Mass and burial rite should not exceed 20.
- 9.2 Any physical contact with the dead body should be avoided.
- 9.3 The body of the deceased is to be brought to the Church by the family members, without the accompaniment of the Minister.
- 9.4 For other Masses for the dead, the attending Faithful should not exceed the number stipulated in the respective seating arrangement, after following the prescribed physical distancing and other precautions.
- 9.5 In the event of the funeral of a COVID-19 victim:
- The body is brought directly to the cemetery, where the Rite of Burial is to be celebrated.
 - A requiem Mass may be celebrated at a later date, observing the standard precautionary measures and with the attending Faithful not exceeding the number stipulated in the respective seating arrangement.

The above Guidelines are not exhaustive. They follow on those that have been issued earlier (cf. DCL/21/2020, dt. 23 March, 2020, Guidelines - I). Needless to say, a collaborative effort on the part of all the concerned is required to execute them smoothly. Let us move ahead, with serenity and hope, to overcome, with the help of God, the major crisis that we all are presently going through.

Diocesan Centre for Liturgy, Pastoral Institute St. Pius X, Old Goa, dated 24th June, 2020.

PAP SAIBACHE SON'KOLP
NOVEMBR 2020
SAMANIA

Robotics ani artificial intelligence hanchi udorgot, mon'xakullachea faideachi zaunk magum-ia.

Ami monant dovorlear borem ki artificial intelligence, robotics ani dusrim yontram oxe toren ami vaprunk zai, ki tim upkartat moniskullache seve-chakrek ani amam somestanchem ghor samballunk ani nhoi dusre khoincech bhaxen. Dor mon'xacho man poile suater urunk zai. Ami hea yontranchim ani Tantrik hatiaranchim chakram zaunk zainam punn tantrik vidya moniskullachea boreponna pasot vaprunk zai.

Mon'xan kel'lim yontram amkam Dev zaunk zainam. Dev ekuch, sorga-sonvsaracho rochnnar, dekhun hea yontrancho boro upeog korchhi goroz. Him hatiaram mon'xachem boreponn vaddounk favo ani ho sonvsar odik boro korunk goroz.

YOU ARE EXPECTED IN HEAVEN...

Are you afraid of being holy truthful, loving, humble and pure?

Then aren't you being afraid of keeping Jesus in your heart? Remember he is the very personification of all these virtues!

'But we are not saints,' is the oft repeated retort to such an argument. Then who are saints? Aren't they ordinary men and women like you and me who were not afraid to cherish Jesus in their hearts and give him to others through their words and deeds? Saints are simple people who led an exemplary life of goodness and virtue, worthy of imitation. In the words of St. Therese of Lisieux, we have a clue as to what we ought to do: *"Love alone attracts me. I will spend my heaven doing good upon the earth. Do ordinary things in an extraordinary way."*

But I am not a professed religious! That is another ready response some of us may have. But aren't we baptised? Don't we know that as taught in our early catechism that God made us 'to know him, to love him, to serve him and to be with him?' And to be with him, we need to wear the garment of holiness which will be ours when we do the latter duties ie. of knowing him, loving him and serving him. Right? As St. Paul asserts in 1 Cor 9:16, 17: "If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward..."

Well, we don't have to go far to know that the myth that sainthood is only for priests and nuns was shattered yet again, with the recent declaration of a jeans-and-hoodie-wearing, internet-surfing teenager as Blessed; yes the computer geek in question, Carlo Acutis is one step away from sainthood! In fact, in the last two decades, the Catholic Church has raised many laypeople to sainthood; some of them mere children, for example seven-year-old Venerable Antonietta Meo. We also have a married couple who were declared saints recently, Saints Louis and Zelig Martin the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux.

After all this, if you still feel that holiness is only for priests and nuns. Well then you should not forget that through your baptism, you too share in the three-fold mission of Christ: you are a priest, a prophet and a king! So you can be another Maximilian Kolbe, John the Baptist or David. Of course sainthood is not gender bias too with so many women young and old, be it Maria Goretti or Monica attaining sainthood.

Why then don't we adults or children really focus much on sainthood? Is it because the inspiration of the saints' austere lives is lost in the pomp and splendour of our celebrations? How many of us who slaughter a fattened pigling and open a foreign scotch to celebrate the feast of our village patron saint know what that saint

really did to attain holiness? Or for that matter when we celebrate the many feasts of Mother Mary's apparitions at different places eg. Fatima, Lourdes, Guadalupe do we at least know the message which she came to give us in those appearances?

I wonder if we are only immersed in traditions which suit us, like lighting candles to St Anthony if we have lost something or making a pilgrimage outside our hometown and shave our heads? I wonder whether we ever light candles and ask God to give us Jesus who we seem to have lost! Perhaps the saints would have then made us look for him in the Temple.... that is in own hearts, because "...do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit...?" (1 Cor 6:19).

Coming back to the point of sainthood, I think we ought to understand that the veneration of saints on this earth does not really make them any holier in heaven. Saints of all age groups, nationalities and professions are raise up to us as role models; to stress that we too can aspire to be one. For instance St. Augustine life proves that 'every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future'.

Aren't we guilty of doing mere idol worship when we just kiss the statue of a saint, without realising what makes him holy? So the next time we stand before the image of a saint, let us ponder over his life; how full of Jesus he was and what he did to proclaim the Gospel through His life. Let us realise that it is the Jesus in him that makes him holy and long for that gift that he had. After we ponder thus it is will no longer be the statue but the spirit of that holy person that we will be touching. For personally speaking all these years of visiting Old Goa and touching the body of St. Francis Xavier never made a difference in my life till I pondered over the scripture which changed him from a worldly man to a Wordly saint: "*For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and to lose his soul?*" (Mark 8:36). Today when I gaze at him, I ask God to grant me the zeal to preach Jesus as he did. Remember that it is not the saint but Jesus in him, who grants us our prayer requests at all times.

Before I conclude let me quote St. John Paul II in saying: "*Don't be afraid to be saints.*" For, as Bl. Carlo Acutis says "*We have always been expected in heaven.*"

By Cosme I. Dias

ORGANIZATION OF SUNDAY MASS SECTORWISE FOR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
 **OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH, MARGAO**
(SUBSCRIBE, LIKE AND SHARE)

8th November	Sector 10	29th November	Sector 3
15th November	Sector 1	6th December	Sector 4
22nd November	Sector 2	13th December	Sector 5

ICHTHYS IN BAPTISM AND EUCHARIST

ICHTHYS is the Greek word for fish, used in Christian antiquity as an acronym formed by the initial letters of a primitive symbol of faith. These letters spell out the word fish: **Iesous CHristos THEou Tios Soter**, Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour.

This is the explanation given by several authors, including St Augustin (*The City of God*, 18, 23). The origin of the symbol is thus not sought in the representation of a *fish* but in the Greek *word* for fish. In an older tradition, as expressed in the catacombs, the fish denotes the presence of living water and also the Christian enlivened in Baptism by the outpouring of eschatological water whose source is in Jerusalem. Evidence of this interpretation is supplied by a chain of testimonies accredited to the authorship of Gregory of Nyssa.

There are abundant monumental and literary witnesses to the popularity of the formula. Tertullian (*On Baptism*, 1) spoke of Christians as "little fishes" (*pisciculi*) like "our ICHTHYS Jesus Christ". On one of the earliest extant Christian tombstones of the second century it is found in the combination "Fish of the Living", or life-giving Fish (ICHTHYS ZONTON).

The allegory was further developed. Christ is the Fish, and we the little fish are born in the waters of baptism, and we cannot be saved if we depart from them. Ambrose explains this symbol in yet another way: Men are the fish caught by the fisherman Peter; his hook does not kill, but sanctifies them.

Christ as *fish* was employed in a special sense for Christ as *food*, and thus for the Eucharist. The classical proof for this is the inscription of Abercius. A large fragment of the stone bearing this inscription which comes from the second century, was found in Asia Minor in 1883 by the English scholar William Ramsay. In 1892 it was given by the Sultan to Pope Leo XIII. It now adorns the Lateran Museum.

In this inscription, which is written in Greek hexameters, Abercius states how he was sent to Rome. There he saw a people "having a resplendent seal" ("seal" is a common expression for baptism). Of his sojourn in Rome he says: "Everywhere I found companions. Faith was my guide wherever I went and everywhere furnished me with food, a very large and pure Fish from a spring, which a chaste virgin had caught, and this she probably, the Church) gave constantly to her friends to eat, having excellent wine mixed with water which she gave with bread."

In one of the Sacrament Chapels of the catacomb of Callistus there is a picture of a man dressed as a philosopher stretching out his hands over a small three-footed table on which bread and fish are laid. To the right of it stands an Orant, a woman with her hands uplifted in prayer. There can be little doubt that this is a representation of the Eucharist.

Fish and bread (remember the multiplication of loaves and fishes) were symbols of the Eucharist. We can see them still today in Christian art, for example in liturgical vestments.

LESSONS FROM COVID-19

We are still battling with Corona Virus. Globally, as of 9 September 2020, there have been 27,486,960 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 894,983 deaths, reported to World Health Organisation (WHO). The percentage of recovery is quite comforting. We are learning to live with it, fight it, and slowly overcome it.

"The pandemic has thrown the world into disarray. To avoid being caught off-guard again, India must start planning for the reality that for too many people, recovery from Covid will not be a two-week affair. The state and society must prepare to give care and support to those who may endure long-term—or even lifelong—conditions caused by the coronavirus."

The lock-down started on 24 March 2020. For five months our offices and work places had been shut, buses and trains did not run, most of us were experiencing the life of quarantine. Now we have to restart our work; buses and trains have started moving, the economy must resurrect from its all-low position. How do we see the world of Post Covid -19?

1. Change in the field of learning

Covid -19 has taught us to adapt new ways of learning. Many school children are able to learn while staying at home, making use of online classes. The method of teaching and communicating have drastically changed. It is a completely a new platform. Teaching students in an entirely different setting where the students are present virtually is something new for most of the teachers. We are trying to communicate through modern technology' in which we need to grow more.

2. Working from home

Covid -19 has propelled a new pattern of doing our work. Most of the institutions, companies, industries have been allowing the employees to work from home, even though all organizations cannot function in this way. Covid -19 has crippled many small scale industries. The troubles endured by the poor people are enormous. Daily wage labourers, migrants, have experienced nightmares. Without financial resources thousands of people were pushed to acute poverty and hunger etc. While some have learnt to work from home, many were struggling to survive. The pandemic situation taught us to live through hardships and uncertainties.

3. Dedication of Doctors, nurses and health professionals

Medical fraternity deserves our applause and appreciation. We must remember their dedication and sacrifice. When we are threatened by the dreaded disease, these great souls were working day and night saving lives. They were able to save thousands of lives by their careful treatment of patients. We have lost the lives of several doctors and nurses while fighting the disease. We have learnt to fight the enemy.

4. New places of prayer and worship

Our prayer and worship in the churches were suspended due to Corona danger. Churches, temples and mosques were kept closed for the past five months. Meanwhile, online prayers, Television Mass, replaced the usual way of praying. Our homes have turned to be new places of worship. We have learnt to keep our faith alive even without coming to Church.

[TNL]

QUESTIONS CHILDREN ASK ABOUT THE BIBLE

Children love to ask questions. Most parents could spend hours telling about the continual streams of questions that flow from their children's mouths, especially the persistent, "Why?" When a child asks a question, he or she needs to be heard seriously. This is especially true in the spiritual area. It would be a grave mistake for a parent to leave a child's question unanswered. Keeping this in mind we have started this children's page to do the needful.

*****Fr. Joe A. Rodrigues**

30) Why wasn't Moses afraid to go to Pharaoh?

Moses probably was afraid to go to Pharaoh, but he went anyway out of obedience to God. When God said he was going to send Moses to Pharaoh to demand that he let the Israelites go, Moses was very frightened at the idea. In fact, he tried to get out of the job by using all sorts of excuses: he said he wasn't the right person, the people would wonder why he should be the one to lead them; the people wouldn't believe that God had sent him, and he wasn't a good speaker. Finally, when Moses had run out of excuses, he simply pleaded: "Lord, please! Send someone else" (Exodus 4:13). But God wanted Moses to go, and Moses did go—God gave him strength and stayed with him. Moses was able to lead God's people out of slavery and to the Promised Land. The Bible doesn't say Moses wasn't afraid; it says he obeyed God. (Read Exodus Chap 3 and 4)

31) Why wouldn't Pharaoh let the people go?

Pharaoh is a title, like "king." The pharaoh in charge of Egypt when Moses lived was different from the pharaoh whom Joseph served—that pharaoh was kind and generous to the Israelites. But this pharaoh was mean; he forced the Israelites to serve the Egyptians as slaves. When Moses went to see Pharaoh and asked him to let the Israelites leave Egypt to worship in the wilderness, Pharaoh was furious. He was too proud to give in to a slave, and he thought he would lose his slave labor, so he refused. Moses went back to him with the request and did special signs to prove that he had been sent by God, but Pharaoh still said no. Finally God sent a series of plagues to convince Pharaoh to let the people go. After each plague, Pharaoh would agree to let the people go, but then he would change his mind and refuse. The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart in order to punish him and demonstrate God's power. (Read Exodus Chap 5, 6, 7 and 8)

32) Why did God send plagues on Egypt?

God sent the plagues to Egypt to punish Pharaoh and to show God's power. The plagues were miracles—fantastic demonstrations of God's power. Pharaoh saw himself as a god, and God was showing him who the true God was. Also, God was answering the prayers of the Israelites to deliver them from slavery. The Egyptians were holding the Israelites

captive and did not want to let them go. Each time Pharaoh would refuse to let the people go, God would send a plague on the Egyptians (but not the Israelites) to help convince Pharaoh to change his mind. After each plague, Pharaoh would agree to release the Israelites, but then he would harden his heart and say no. Eventually, after the death of the firstborn male children, the Israelites were allowed to leave Egypt. But even then, Pharaoh changed his mind and chased after them. Pharaoh was an evil man. (Read Exodus 9: 1-4)

Saints are...

- ...like windows that the light of God is shining through into our world.
- ...like the sun: they shine far beyond their lives.
- ...like bridges to heaven.
- ...like trees, rooted deeply in the mystery of God.
- ...like reflectors on a bike: they shine the light of God into the dark world.
- ...like living information signs pointing towards God.
- ...like letters from far away that help us change the present.

POVITR SOBHECHEM JIVIT

BAUTIZMA VORVIM DEIVIK JIVIT MEVLAM:

- 06-10-2020 - Christo Fernandes: Paul Fernandes ani Clency Fernandes (Colva)
- 23-10-2020 - Godvill da Costa : Ramesh Gopal Redkar ani Jassy Rofina da Costa (Pedda- Margao)
- 25-10-2020 - Lucas Mariano Sebastiao Verdes: Angelo Ben Verdes ani Lorraine Perpetuo Socorro Pais (Comba-Margao)
- Eean Marius Pinto: Reagan Anthony Pinto ani Melissa Angela D'Costa (Pedda-Margao)



LOGNAN EKTHAIM ZALEAT:

- 21-10-2020 - Evo Mascarenhas (Pedda-Margao) ani Vendira Mascarenhas (Calcondem-Margao)
- 23-10-2020 - Shubert Stanford Furtado (Comba-Margao) ani Judith Farias (Santemol-Raia)



MORNNA VORVIM SASNNIK JIVIT SURU ZALAM:

- 29-09-2020 - Jennifer Connaly (Comba Alto)
- 06-10-2020 - Antonio Walter do Rosario Colaco (Marketward)
- 18-10-2020 - Ira Maria Osorio Fernandes (Alto Monte)
- 19-10-2020 - Conrad Francis de Souza (Comba Baixo)
- 21-10-2020 - Albertina Silveira e Gracias (Mestabhat)

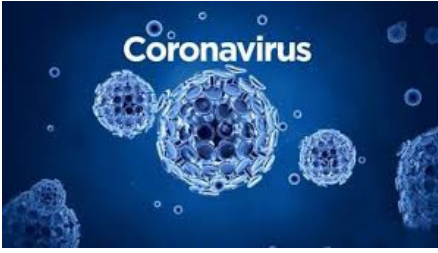


BIG MAMMA'S CORNER

Hello my dear and new friends!

It's been 4 months since I've been talking to you thorough this bulletin. And it is a joy indeed!

It's November already - the eleventh month of the year. How fast 2020 has flown! It has, however, been a highly eventful year for all of us because of the coronavirus pandemic.



I recall hearing of it for the first time in January - but why worry? This virus had occurred in China. I was faaarrr away in my sweet little Goa... "I was safe" - a condition I now rightly term "blissful ignorance"!!!!

Come 1st March, I realize things are getting bad - but still, they could be worse.. Goa was still safe right?? So, my children's exam preparations begin with orals. Next thing I know, their written exams are cancelled because of a proposed lockdown.

April - it's Easter - the biggest celebration for us Catholics. But it's all quiet. What should have been a beautiful and joyful Tridium, concluding with the biggest Easter lunch celebrated with my children's grandparents, is now marked with a total low-key, television mass service viewing affair. No midnight or Easter morning mass followed by wishing one and all around, no visiting family with Easter eggs, all wishes over the phone, etc...

In May and June, all were hoping for some good news. But, the scene is still bleak. Total lockdown has ended, but the government has still kept most things closed - especially schools. My children celebrate their birthdays in these months - but unlike, last year, there was no 'party' with friends as in the previous years. (But yes, I did bake my children's birthday cakes, decorate our living room with birthday décor, and do a small birthday breakfast and lunch with their grandparents - which actually was much more meaningful and special unlike the frivolousness of before.)

July, August, September and October - graded 'unlock' series on. But things are far worse in Goa.

And now, it's November...A month I would really look forward to before as it's a 'celebration' month for me - my husband's birthday in the

NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

beginning of November, my birthday at the end of November, and our wedding anniversary in between.. In addition, this is one of my 'landmark' birthdays (but don't ask me my age - a lady never tells!!!) However, this year's celebration is going to be different - more introspective, more quiet, yet special..

It is going to be 13 years since the day I got married. Thirteen is often considered 'unlucky' by some. I don't. These 13 years have seen their share of the best, and the worst...have had their really high 'highs' and their really low 'lows'...have tested us in so many ways, and have matured us so well...

So this month, I would like to dedicate to all my married readers - many of whom would be the parents of you, my dear young friends. Also, to all those contemplating marriage.

You must have heard or read the quote: 'Love is blind, but marriage is an eye-opener!' Yes, when you are in love, the grass is green, the skies are



blue, roses are red - you're walking on sunshine! But these are all superfluous feelings; real and true love develops only after marriage. All the adjustments, all the compromises, all the laughs shared, all the mistakes made, all the fights, all the hugs post the fights, all the burnt food, all the clean-ups, all the babies and their trials...truly, marriage does open your eyes - it matures you! And with God in your

marriage, you become the best possible version of yourself.

As I conclude, I wish you all be blessed with lots and lots of LOVE in your lives, starting with the 'love of Christ' and flowing into the 'love of your families'.

God bless you.

All my love,
Big Mamma.

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

1 Cor 12:26

The “Communion of Saints” is made up of all men who have placed their hope in Christ and belong to him through Baptism, whether they have already died or are still alive. Because in Christ we are one Body; we live in a communion that encompasses heaven and earth.

The Church is larger and more alive than we think. Among her members are the living and the deceased whether they are still undergoing a process of purification or are already in the glory of God, individuals known and unknown, great saints and inconspicuous persons. We can help one another even beyond the grave. We can call on our patrons and favourite saints, but also our departed relatives and friends whom we believe are already with God. Conversely, by our intercessory prayer, we can come to the aid of our dear departed who are still undergoing purification.

All those who are baptized into Christ form one communion and are united with one another, the living can also help the souls of the faithful departed.

When a man is dead, he can do nothing more for himself. But we can do something for the faithful departed. our love extends into the afterlife. Through our fasting, prayers, and good works, but especially through the celebration of Holy Eucharist, we can obtain grace for the departed.



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MARY- invoked and venerated as OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Mary is the bravest and amazing woman. She deserves the title Mother of God. To the faithful, she is a role model of love, devotion, and faith. Through her "yes," she sealed our salvation. When we pray the Hail Mary we are praying to Mary telling her to tell Jesus to help us and to pray for us. Mary wants and helps us get closer to Jesus. She wants us to follow the right path and she wants us to be with her and Jesus as well as the saints in heaven.



On the 13th of October 2020 the feast of Our lady of Fatima was celebrated at our Grace Church, Margao. We commenced with the Rosary recited by Riva Pontes. The rosary is such a tremendous powerful weapon against satan. If we only knew how powerful this Prayer is we would never want to put the beads down. Later we spent some time in the presence of the Lord where the adoration was conducted by Fr. Joseph D'Silva. He really made us feel the presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the blessed Sacrament. Fr. Joe Rodrigues our

Parish Priest celebrated the feast Mass. His homily gave us the full glimpse of Fatima when Our Lady appeared to the 3 shepherd children: Lucia who was 10 years, Francisco seven and Jacinta six in a field in Fatima, Portugal to warn the world of their sinful ways. She requested the children to recite the rosary, she stressed on prayer, fasting and sacrifice to obtain peace for the world and the conversion of sinners. These kids were a pure mesmerizing example of how we as people should be where faith is concerned.

She is a powerful intercessor and model, especially in a time where sins of the flesh and sins against humanity dominate the culture.

Our Lady also requests us to be faithful to the devotion of the first 5 successive first Saturday's of the month.

It was at Fátima that the Virgin Mary's messages from Heaven reminded us of the teaching of the Church in regard to the existence of Heaven, Purgatory and Hell. This month clearly brings this to our attention with the celebration of the Solemnity of All Saints and All Souls' Day.

We are very blessed as we have the grotto of Our lady of Fatima in our church Compound.

Our heavenly Mother please Bless and Protect us under thy mantle.



By Danallie D'costa
W.A.F. member

**MISAM ANI INTESANVAM
NOVEMBER MHOINEANT - 2020**

Dis	Vell	Misam
1ler Aitar	8:00 9:15	Soglea Santam - Bhoktanchi Porob Chloe Nortan - Zolm dis Nevin Fernandes - Zolm dis
2rer Som		Soglea Mel'leancho dis
3rer Mung	6:30 7:15 8:45 5:45	Jovan Pinto - bolaike khatir Ligorio Braganza - Zolm dis Cyril Gonsalves - Zolm dis Vincentin Sonvsthechea Mel'leam khatir - SSVF
4er Budh	6:30 7:15 8:45 5:45	Amanda Fernandes - dhinvasnechem Edwin Fernandes - Zolm dis Yttron ani Valerie Fernandes - kazarachem vorsachem mis Perpetual Roma Dias - dhinvasnechem
5ver Bres	6:30 7:15 8:45 5:45	Welcy Mazarello ani Famil - bolaike khatir Ivo Menezes ani Famil - bolaike khatir Malasquina Rebello - hichea otmeak Xavier Fernandes - hachea otmeak
6ver Sukh	6:30 7:15 8:45 1:10 5.45	Amanda Fernandes - kherit intesanv Velifa Fernandes - Zolm dis Antonio Walter Do Rosario Colaco - mhoineacho ugddas Gabriel Rebello - hachea otmeak Joaquim Pereira - hachea otmeak
7ver Sonv	6:30 7:15 8:45 6:00	Santos D'Souza - hachea otmeak Jewaharlal Nevis Noronha - hachea otmeak Jose ani Ana D'Cruz - hanchea otmeak Llyod D'Souza - Zolm dis
8ver Aitar	6:00 11:00	Godfrey Nortan - Zolm dis Emmanuel Vaz - Zolm dis
9ver Som	6:30 7:15 8:45 5.45	Amanda Fernandes - kherit intesanv Tanya Pires - Zolm dis Carlo D'Souza - Zolm dis Manuel Carvalho - hachea otmeak
10ver Mung	6:30 7:15 8:45 5:45	Amancio ani Maya da Lima - kazarachea vorsachem mis Sandra ani Minguel D'Silva - dhinvasnechem Lorreta Pinto - dhinvasnechem Renita ani Riya Valles - Zolm dis
11ver Budh	6:30 7:15 8:45 5:45	Jose Antonio Fernandes - hachea otmeak Menino Caeiro - hachea otmeak Peter Pereira - hachea otmeak Agostinho Mascarenhas - hachea otmeak

12ver Bres	6:30 7:15 8:45 5:45	Ruth Barretto - Zolm dis Savio Dias - Zolm dis Antonio Borges - hachea otmeak Bernard D'Silva ani Henriqueta Fernandes - hanchea otmeak
13ver Sukh	6:30 7:15 8:45 5:45	Francisco ani Albertina Barretto - hanchea otmeak Blevina Fernandes - Zolm dis
14ver Sonv	6:30 7:15 8:45	John ani Charlotte Viegas - kazarachea vorsachem mis Gavin Fernandes - Zolm dis Julissa Pacheco - Zolm dis
15ver Aitar	7:00 11:00	Domingos Da Silva - Zolm dis Lourenco Gonsalves ani Felicidade Quodros - dhivasnechem
16ver Som	6:30 7:15 8:45 5:45	Rosarina Rodrigues - Zolm dis Shaun and Alisha Diniz - kazarachea vorsachem mis James Pereira ani Famil - bolaike khatir
17ver Mung	6:30 7:15 8:45 5:45	Venson D'Silva - Zolm dis Sharmila Noronha - dhivasnechem
18ver Budh	6:30 7:15 8:45 5:45	Caetano Cruz Luis Joaquim da Cruz ani Andre Piedade Cruz (FAB) Carolina Pires - Zolm dis Ira Maria Osario Fernandes - mhoineacho ugddas Purvashri P Souza - hichea otmeak
19ver Bres	6:30 7:15 8:45 5:45	Conrad Francis de Souza - mhoineacho ugddas Brendan D'Silva - Zolm dis Henriquinho Rodrigues - Poilea vorsacho ugddas Antonio Francis Xavier Vaz - hachea otmeak
20ver Sukh	6:30 7:15 8:45 5:45	Albertina Gracias - mhoinneacho ugddas Cynthia Noronha - Zolm dis Miguel Joao Filomeno Martins - Tisrea Vorsacho ugddas Fr. Joao Pedro Fernandes - hachea otmeak
21ver Sonv	6:30 7:15 8:45	Sheena Noronha - Zolm dis Clarista Pinto - Poilea vorsacho ugddas Antonio Pacheco - Poilea vorsacho ugddas
22ver Aitar		Feast of Christ the King
	8:00 9:15	Dolcy Gonsalves - Zolm dis Ian Noronha - Zolm dis
23ver Som	6:30 7:15 8:45	Hermegildo ani Adelina Pereira - hanchea otmeak Antonio Walter Do Rosario Colaco - hachea otmeak (SSVP) Sebastiao ani Catharina Viegas - hanchea otmeak

	5:45	
24ver Mung	6:30	
	7:15	Joanita Pinto - Zolm dis
	8:45	
	5:45	
25ver Budh	6:30	Francisco ani Pearl Soares - kazarachea vorsachem mis
	7:15	Gracy Fernandes - Zolm dis
	8:45	Ines Viegas - Zolm dis
	5:45	Milagrina D'Souza - Zolm dis
26ver Bres	6:30	Cajetan D'Costa - hachea otmeak
	7:15	Blasio D'Sa - hachea otmeak
	8:45	Cleva Barretto - bolaike khatir
	5:45	Cajetan D'Costa - hachea otmeak
27ver Sukh	6:30	Anton Cyril D'Souza - hachea otmeak
	7:15	Rock ani Socorinha Mendes - hanchea otmeak
	8:45	Olinda D'Silva - hichea otmeak
	5:45	Evo ani Vendira Mascarenhas - dhinvasnechem
28ver Sonv	6:30	Kon naslolea otmea Pasot (Abandoned Souls)- FAB
	7:15	Eugenia D'Silva - dhinvasnechem
	8:45	Antonio Walter Do Rosario Colaco - hachea otmeak
	6:00	Alex and Kathrine D'Sa - kazarachea vorsachem mis
29ver Aitar	8:00	Karol Nortan - Zolm dis
30ver Som	6:30	Melicia Barretto - Zolm dis
	7:15	Shirley Fernandes - 21vo zolm dis
	8:45	Ryan ani Sneha Rebello - kazarachea vorsachem mis
	5:45	Roque Santan D'Cunha - hachea otmeak

Prayer To My Patron Saint

(I bear your name)



Dear Saint [name],
 Ever since my baptism,
 I bear your name.
 Pray for me to God
 for the strength of your faith,
 the breadth of your hope,
 the courage of your love.
 Support me so that I, like you,
 may hear God's loving call today,
 and in my life may answer
 as God's grace moves me to.
 Then one day, with you and all the saints,
 may I receive the crown of life.
 Amen.

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Antonio Walter Do Rosario Colaco

Dear Papa,

Far beyond you are gone,

And we know it's a happy place,

A pain so immense pierces our heart deep.

But we won't forget your simple yet profound legacy;

Your legacy of being ever forgiving,

Ever enduring,

Ever honouring another fellow being,

Ever smiling,

And ever trusting in the Almighty.

And everytime we think of you dear Papa, we thank God for the gift of "You"

& we pray for you with joy & love in our hearts,

The way you would want us to always be.

We miss you ardently!!

Remembered fondly by his wife Sabie, children and family.