ST. ANTHONY'S VOICE

NEWSLETTER OF ST. ANTHONY'S FRIARY CHURCH MARCH 2025



"Return to me with all your heart"

-JOEL 2:12.

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"From Earth to Heaven: The Way of the Saints"

"**Those who cannot feel the littleness of great things in themselves are apt to overlook the greatness of little things in others"** says **F. Kakuzo Okakura** a Japanese scholar and art critic. Month of November is a month to remember and recall the littleness of the great things and greatness of littleness of our fellow brothers and sisters who lived with us and whose only memory is living in us.

The above thought purely depends on the mind of the apostle Paul who says **"For we walk by faith, not by sight.'** This is what leads us to sainthood, From Earth to Heaven.

Who is a saint and whose soul would rest in peace? According to the mind of the scripture one who lives in righteousness. When a person is very mindful in his dealings and Christ conscious would clearly find a spiritual path from earth to heaven. St. Francis of Assisi would be the best and clear example. The Order of Friars Minor, founded by St Francis of Assisi, is a fraternity in which, through religious profession, the friars, following Christ more closely, moved by the Holy Spirit, give themselves totally to God loved above all things, living the Gospel in the Church. One can clearly detect in the words, prayers and life of St. Francis "the littleness of great things and the greatness of little things".

One could see the three transformative signs "From Earth to Heaven" of St. Francis of Assisi through these examples.

1.The story of Saint Francis of Assisi kissing the leper is one of the most powerful moments in his spiritual journey, symbolizing his deep conversion and embrace of humility, love, and service to the outcast - a path from the earthly to the heavenly. Before his conversion, Francis, like many in his time, had a deep fear and disgust toward lepers, who were seen as unclean and were often ostracized from society. Leprosy was not only a physical ailment but also carried a heavy social stigma. Lepers were forced to live isolated lives, and people avoided any contact with them for fear of contagion.
But after his conversion, when he committed himself to living the Gospel and following Christ's example of love and compassion, his attitude toward lepers changed dramatically. His fear transformed into faith which led him to sainthood.

2.Furthermore, the faith of St. Francis of Assisi grew stronger, leading him to place money in St. Peter's tomb—a gesture symbolizing humility, renunciation of worldly wealth, and deep reverence for the Church. It also emphasizes trust in God's providence and a commitment to the values of the Gospel.

3. These two experiences drew him into the realm of the Gospel and the Spirit, leading him to adopt the Franciscan habit worn by Saint Francis of Assisi. It became a profound symbol of his radical commitment to poverty, humility, and simplicity. His distinctive clothing, often referred to as the Franciscan habit, reflected his desire to live in imitation of Christ and to reject the luxuries and status associated with his former life.

A saint's life is lived in close relationship with God, pursuing holiness and the love of others. Here are some reasons why the call to sainthood is central to the Christian faith "From Earth to Heaven: The Way of the Saints".

- **Union with God** - the primary reason to strive for sainthood is to be united with God in heaven.

- **Sainthood reflects fulfilment of God's will** - Becoming a saint means living in full alignment with God's will, which leads to the deepest peace, joy, and fulfilment in this life and eternal happiness.

- **Imitating Christ -** Saints are seen as people who closely imitated Christ in their words, actions, and love. Jesus Christ lived a life with love, humility, service, and self-sacrifice.

- **Serving Others -** Saints dedicate their lives to serving others, often making significant sacrifices for the good of their communities or humanity at large

- **Holiness Brings Joy -** Holiness, the hallmark of a saint's life, leads to deep, lasting joy. Even though saints often endure suffering, they find joy in their closeness to God and in serving others.

- **Sharing in God's Mission -** Saints participate in the mission of the Church to spread the Good News and bring others closer to God.

We as faithful Christians remember and recall all the saints and all our departed brothers let us become the living replication of the saints and the good souls who are gone before us.

Saint Patrick

The Patron Saint of Ireland



Saint Patrick is one of the most well-known and venerated saints in Christian history, particularly in Ireland, where his feast day, “St. Patrick's Day”, falls on March 17th. In addition to his numerous miracles and his role in introducing Christianity to Ireland, Patrick's life narrative is rich in myth and historical significance.

Early Life and Captivity

Saint Patrick was born in Britain, probably in the late 4th century, though the exact date is uncertain. He was born to a wealthy Roman-British family, and his father, Calpurnius, was a deacon, while his grandfather was a priest.

Despite this, Patrick did not have a particularly devout upbringing and was not initially a Christian. At the age of 16, Patrick's life took a dramatic turn. He was kidnapped by Irish raiders who invaded Britain and taken to Ireland as a slave. For six years, he worked as a shepherd in the harsh wilderness of Ireland, enduring hardship and loneliness. During this time, Patrick turned to Christianity for solace, praying frequently and developing a deep faith.

Escape and Return to Ireland

After six years of captivity, Patrick believed he received a divine message in a dream, urging him to escape and return home. He managed to flee his captors and eventually found his way back to Britain. Once home, Patrick reunited with his family, but he felt a strong calling to return to Ireland, this time not as a captive, but as a missionary.

Patrick's decision to return to Ireland was motivated by a desire to bring Christianity to the people who had once enslaved him. He spent many years studying and preparing for his mission. In another dream, Patrick saw the people of Ireland calling him to return and guide them in the faith. With this divine calling, Patrick set out to return to Ireland, where he would go on to have a profound impact on its people and culture.

Mission in Ireland

Upon returning to Ireland, Patrick began his mission of converting the Irish to Christianity. He traveled widely, establishing churches, schools, and monasteries across the country. One of the most famous aspects of his work was the way he used familiar Irish symbols to explain Christian concepts. For instance, it is said that Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—to the Irish people, a symbol that has since become synonymous with St. Patrick's Day.

Patrick faced significant opposition from the pagan leaders, but he persisted in his mission, performing many miracles along the way. One of the most famous legends associated with him is that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland, a symbolic act of ridding the country of paganism. While the story may not be literal since there is no evidence that Ireland ever had snakes it is symbolic of

Patrick's role in converting Ireland to Christianity and pushing out the old beliefs.

Legacy and Influence

St. Patrick's impact on Ireland is immeasurable. His missionary work played a crucial role in the Christianization of Ireland, and the church he helped build became a strong foundation for Christian influence in Europe. He is also credited with spreading literacy in Ireland, as monasteries were not only centers of religious worship but also hubs of learning and scholarship. Patrick is also remembered for his humble and compassionate nature. Despite the challenges he faced, including resistance and personal suffering, he remained devoted to his mission. His writings, including his famous Confession, reflect his deep faith, humility, and gratitude for the life he was given.

Today, St. Patrick is honored not only as a religious figure but as a symbol of Irish identity and pride. The global celebration of St. Patrick's Day is a vibrant testament to his enduring legacy, marked by parades, music, dancing, and the wearing of green nod to both the color of Ireland and the shamrock he used to explain the Trinity.

Conclusion

Saint Patrick's life and mission are a testament to the power of faith, perseverance, and humility. Though much of what we know about him is shaped by legend, his real achievements as a missionary and his role in the Christianization of Ireland remain undeniable. His legacy has transcended religious boundaries, as he has become a symbol of Ireland itself, celebrated by people of all backgrounds. As March 17th approaches each year, people around the world take a moment to honor the man who, through his faith and determination, changed the course of Irish history and left an indelible mark on the world.



Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

On **Sunday, February 2nd,** our parish joyfully celebrated the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas.** This significant event commemorates the moment when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple, fulfilling the Jewish law of presenting the firstborn male to God. Traditionally, this feast also includes the blessing of candles, symbolizing Christ as the Light of the World.

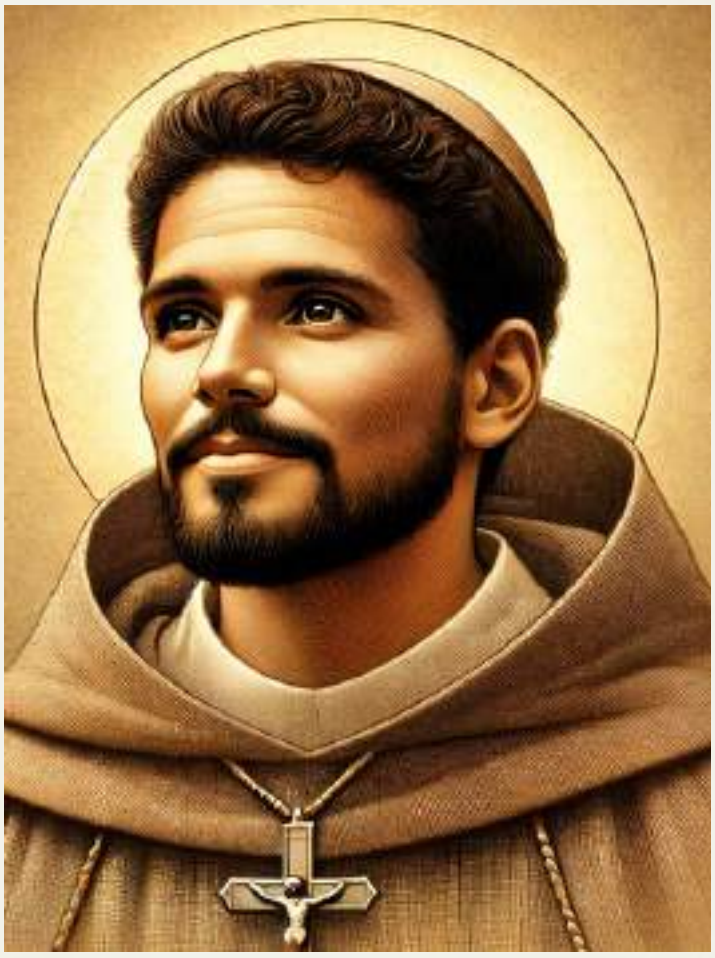
The celebration began with a solemn procession into the church, illuminating the sacred space and reminding us of Jesus' role as our guiding light. During the Mass, the Gospel reading recounted the encounter with Simeon and Anna, who recognized Jesus as the Messiah and proclaimed Him as a light for revela-tion to the Gentiles and glory for Israel.

In his homily, our parish priest reflected on the themes of light and purifica-tion, encouraging the congregation to embrace Christ's light in our lives and to be bearers of that light to others. He emphasized the importance of recognizing Jesus' presence in our daily lives and sharing His love and light with those around us.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord serves as a poignant reminder of our call to bring Christ's light into the world. As we move forward, let us carry this light within us, illuminating the path for others and living out the Gospel in our daily lives.

Feast of St. Gonsalo Garcia







We celebrate the Feast of Saint Gonsalo Garcia on 6th February. He is the first canonized saint from India and the secondary patron of the Archdiocese of Bombay.

Born in 1556 in Bassein (now Vasai), near Mumbai, to a Portuguese father and an Indian mother, Gonsalo was educated by Jesuit missionaries. At fifteen, he accompanied a Jesuit priest to Japan, where he became fluent in the language and served as a catechist. Later, he joined the Franciscans and dedicated himself to missionary work in Japan. Amidst rising persecution, Gonsalo and his companions were arrested and, on February 5, 1597, were martyred in Nagasaki. He was canonized on June 8, 1862, by Pope Pius IX.

In our local tradition, the Feast of Saint Gonsalo Garcia is celebrated on February 7th, allowing us to honour his legacy independently.
Let us draw inspiration from Saint Gonsalo Garcia's unwavering faith and dedication. May his example encourage us to deepen our commitment to Christ and serve our community with love and humility.

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is celebrated on February 11 and honors the Blessed Virgin Mary's



The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is celebrated on February 11th, invites us to reflect upon the profound events that took place in 1858 in Lourdes, France. It was during this time that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared eighteen times to a humble 14-year-old girl, Saint Bernadette Soubirous. Through these apparitions, Our Lady conveyed messages of prayer, penance, and trust in God.

One of the most significant aspects of these apparitions was the emergence of a spring at the Grotto of Massabielle, as revealed by Our Lady to Bernadette. This spring has since become a source of physical and spiritual healing for countless pilgrims worldwide. To date, the Catholic Church has officially recognized 70 miraculous healings associated with the waters of Lourdes, following rigorous scientific and medical examinations.

In 1992, Pope Saint John Paul II established the World Day of the Sick to coincide with this feast day, emphasizing the compassionate and healing nature of Our Lady's message.

Our Lady of Lourdes invites us to deepen our faith through prayer and penance. Let us seek her intercession for the sick and suffering within our community and around the world, trusting in her maternal care and the infinite mercy of her Son.

The Rock-Bottom Experience

- Anil Johnson, Maruthinagar

ROCK-BOTTOM LITERALLY MEAN "BEING AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE LEVEL." ST PAUL SAYS IN II COR 12:10 "FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG."

For example, when a person is afflicted with a deadly disease and the doctor says, "It's all over, prepare for your death," or when a businessman's business has hit the rock bottom, he says to himself, "It's all over, its time to hang up" or if an unemployed person says, "it's all over, I have tried all, but unable to get even one job; or "if a person is sacked from his job and is unable to get another one in several months, says that "my commitments and my EMIs are killing me, I am in continual depression, it's time to sell my house and go back to my native place along with my family, are some of the examples of situations that indicate that a person has hit rock bottom in his/her life.

Sometimes, hitting rock bottom serves as a wake-up call, urging us to turn to the Bible and immerse ourselves in prayer as we face our helpless situations. At times, it becomes our last resort to seek God. St. Paul boldly declares that he became strong when he was weak. What does this mean? He fixed his gaze on Jesus and His Holy Cross, drawing strength regardless of his circumstances. For us, it is an opportunity to open the Bible, read it, and believe in its truth—otherwise, we risk being lost without a trace!

Let me share a few examples from the Bible. In the Book of **Tobit**, we read about a righteous man named **Tobit**, who faithfully followed Jewish traditions and customs. He showed great compassion by ensuring that murdered Jews received a proper burial, even when their bodies were left on the streets. Despite his righteousness, he suffered misfortune—he became blind when sparrow droppings fell into his eyes. Helpless and unable to provide for his family, he relied on his wife, who had to work to sustain them. He had only one son, **Tobias**, and struggled to understand why such hardships befell him, despite his unwavering faithfulness to God.

Overwhelmed by despair, Tobit prayed, saying:"For it is better for me to die than to see so much distress in my life and to listen to insults." (Tobit 3:6)

At the same time, **Sarah**, a woman in Media, was also experiencing deep sorrow. She had been married seven times, but each of her husbands died before their marriage could be consummated. Heartbroken, she wept bitterly and, in her despair, considered ending her life:"On that day she was grieved in spirit and wept. When she had gone up to her father’s upper room, she intended to hang herself." (Tobit 3:10)

She further cried out to God in anguish:"Already seven husbands of mine have died. Why should I still live? But if it is not pleasing to you, O Lord, to take my life, hear me in my disgrace." (Tobit 3:15)

Seeing their suffering, God, in His divine mercy, sent **Angel Raphael** in the form of a man to help Tobit and Sarah. The angel guided Tobias on his journey to Media, where he married Sarah, reclaimed the **ten talents of silver** that Tobit had deposited there, and ultimately brought about his father’s healing.

Sometimes, when you grow deeper in God's Word, the challenges you face seem to intensify. The more you immerse yourself in Scripture, the more trials you may encounter—because the devil seeks to discourage you and make you abandon your faith. However, if you hold on with unwavering perseverance, that is when the Lord works wonders in your life.

This truth is beautifully illustrated in the Book of **Tobit. Angel Raphael,** revealing his divine mission, tells Tobit:"I was sent to you to test you. And at the same time, God sent me to heal you and Sarah, your daughter-in-law." (Tobit 12:14)

This reminds us that while God allows trials to strengthen our faith, He also provides healing, restoration, and blessings in **His perfect timing.**

I started reading the Bible in 1999. By 2002, I had read it twice and felt like a changed man. At that time, I was working in a small company. Since our office was near the railway tracks, I often spent my lunch hours watching trains pass by. I would stare at the oncoming train as it zoomed past, heading towards its destination, and a deep question would stir in my heart:

"Lord, what is my destination? I am struggling despite reading Your Word twice, and I don’t know what to do. Please help me!"

Then, something unexpected happened. That very month, on the 15th, my manager called me into his cabin and said, "I’m not happy with your performance. Take your cheque and leave immediately." I didn’t argue or plead—I simply took the cheque and walked out. It was 4 p.m. I informed my friends, "Hey, I’m leaving." They were shocked and urged me to stay until 5 p.m. for a farewell.

While waiting at the bus stop, they gathered around me, deeply concerned. But I simply said, "It's God's plan for me to leave in the middle of the month. Maybe He has something better in store for me."

In those days, I received my salary in cash, which I always handed over to my father. Now, with no job and no clear direction, I didn't know what to do. My **BMTC bus pass** was valid until the end of the month, so I resolved to visit every church in Bangalore, Catholic and Protestant alike. Carrying my Bible with me, I spent my days sitting in these churches, reading and praying.

On the **seventh day**, the 22nd of the same month, I went for an interview. To my amazement, I was offered a job with **three times my previous salary!** My joy knew no bounds, and I was overwhelmed with gratitude to God. I ended up working in that organization for **17 long years.**

This experience taught me a powerful lesson—**sometimes, you have to hit rock bottom for God to lift you up.**

After working night shifts for 17 long years—what is often called the "graveyard shift"—I reached a point where I simply couldn't continue anymore. Being in my 40s, I pleaded with God to grant me a job in the academic field, where I could work a stable 9-to-5 schedule and spend quality time with my family. God heard my prayer and provided me with a job at a university, where I have now completed five years of service. I am hopeful that this will be the place where I retire.

Today, my friends—who are still stuck in the graveyard shift—look at me with envy, wondering how I managed to secure such a job with zero experience in the field. But that's exactly how God works for those who seek Him earnestly and abide by His commandments. As He says in **Hosea 6:6**, "I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice." What He truly seeks from us is obedience and love.

We see in **John 1:41**, Andrew telling his brother Simon Peter, "We have found the Messiah." Similarly, Philip told Nathanael, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." This is the joy of discovering Christ. In **Psalm 119:103**, it is written, "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"—this is what happens when you fall in love with Him.

At the **Infant Jesus Shrine**, the inscription reads, "The More You Honour Me, the More I Will Bless You." This aligns with **1 Samuel 2:30**, where God says, "I will honour those who honour me." Notice the order—first, we must honour the Lord, and then He will bless us. The Lord longs to embrace us and pour out His blessings, but we must take the first step toward Him.

As **Revelation 3:20** says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." God is always knocking at the door of our hearts; it is up to us to take the initiative, open the door, and experience His love.

6TH BLOCK
KORAMANGALA

The SCC Meeting

15TH FEBRUARY 2025

On 15.02.2025, the Small Christian Community (SCC) gathered at the residence of Mr. Melvil and Dr. Eliza Pereira, with approximately 20 members in attendance. Dr. Eliza Pereira commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone and distributing the planned spiritual agenda. She led the group in a meditative hymn to prepare hearts for receiving the Word of God.

The readings for the 16th Ordinary Sunday were proclaimed by Ms. Regina Maria and Sr. Jyothi. Following the readings, the group engaged in a reflective discussion, with Sr. Latha offering insights on applying the scriptures to daily life. The session became particularly poignant when Mrs. Sarala and Dr. Eliza Pereira shared personal testimonies, deeply resonating with all present.

During the prayer segment, Mrs. Maria requested special intercessions for her cousin, Mr. Kavin, who is currently facing significant health challenges. The meeting concluded with a heartfelt prayer led by Mrs. Regina, including a special blessing for the host family.

Second Session: Community Updates

In the subsequent session, outgoing Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) member, Mr. Maxim Lobo, was honoured with a shawl and bouquet. He then introduced and welcomed the new PPC member, Ms. Veena Serrao. She addressed the assembly, seeking active collaboration from all members and specifically encouraging women to participate in the parish women's cell.

Dr. Eliza Pereira then outlined the community's planned activities for the upcoming year and announced the naming of the block as "St. Lourdes Ward." To commemorate this, Dr. Jayanthi ceremoniously installed a statue of St. Lourdes, and members honoured Mother Mary with a hymn.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the programs scheduled for 2025, followed by a time of fellowship over delicious snacks.










S.T. BED WARD

The SCC Meeting

15TH FEBRUARY 2025

On February 15th, the Small Christian Community (SCC) of **S.T. Bed Ward** convened at the residence of Nikki and Rani Thomas, with approximately 20 to 22 members in attendance. The gathering commenced with a Bible Quiz, engaging all members in a spirited start to the evening.

Following the quiz, participants shared their reflections on the Sunday Scripture readings. Fr. Prashanth Fernandes provided a comprehensive summary and explanation of the passages, enriching the group's understanding.

The evening was marked by a profound sense of grace and fellowship, culminating in a shared dinner that strengthened communal bonds.









The SCC Meeting

by- Malaika Fernandes

The Venkatapura Ward Small Christian Community (SCC) experienced a powerful evening of faith and fellowship during their February 2025 Small Christian Community (SCC) meeting held on 23 February at the residence of Mr Alex and Mrs Merlyn Fernandes. With 18 members in attendance, the gathering was marked by a heartfelt intercessory rosary praying for the speedy recovery of the Holy Father, insightful sharing of the Gospel for the day, with a strong sense of unity and fellowship.

The meeting, held under the guidance of Rev. Br. Brian OFM, began with a collective recitation of the Rosary, with specific intentions offered up in prayer. This act of devotion set the tone for an evening focused on spiritual growth and communal support.

The core of the meeting centered around reflecting on the day's Gospel reading from Luke 6: 27-38. The members shared personal testimonies and thoughts on the themes of love, forgiveness, and inculcating a nature of generosity. Rev. Br. Brian OFM further enriched the discussion with a thought-provoking sharing, providing deeper context and inspiration for the attendees.

Beyond the spiritual aspects, the meeting also addressed practical matters concerning our ward community.

Our Parish Council Member, Mr Deepak Fernandes made a few important announcements:

● Ward Naming: An initiative was announced to name the ward "Christ the King Ward," aiming to solidify the community's identity and focus.

● WhatsApp Group Management: The ward's WhatsApp group will be transitioned to an admin-only format to streamline communication and ensure important announcements are easily accessible.

● Lenten Observance: The ward will initiate the practice of praying the Way of the Cross every Sunday during Lent, with each session hosted in a different member's home. This initiative encourages deeper participation in Lenten practices and strengthens community bonds.

The meeting concluded with a time of warm fellowship, allowing members to connect on a personal level and further strengthen their sense of community.
The successful gathering was met with enthusiasm from the ward members, who expressed gratitude for the opportunity to grow together in faith. The minutes of the meeting highlighted the "wonderful start" to the monthly SCC gatherings, emphasizing the moments of prayer, sharing, and fellowship.
The ward members extend their thanks to all who attended and encourage everyone to join future meetings, fostering a continuous journey of faith and community development.











8TH BLOCK
KORAMANGALA

The SCC Meeting

23RD FEBRUARY 2025

The Parishioners of **8th block, Koramangala** gathered at Redemption Sisters Convent for the SCC meeting on Sunday 23rd February 2025. It was the day of spiritual enhancement. The meeting began with the Rosary conducted by Mrs. Philomena. After the Rosary, Br. Allwin Joseph read the Gospel Lk 6:27-38 and we began reflecting and sharing our reflection on the Gospel passage highlighting some of the key points like the core values of Christian life.The meeting concluded with conclusion prayer and with the refreshments.





8th block,

Koramangala

5TH & 7TH BLOCK
KORAMANGALA

The SCC Meeting

27TH FEBRUARY 2025

On Thursday, February 27, 2025, the St. Anthony Small Christian Community gathered from 6:00 to 7:30 PM at the Jyoti Nivas College Campus. The gathering began with a Lectio Divina led by Sr. Nalini Cruz, the Superior of the Jyoti Nivas College Community. She invoked the Holy Spirit through prayer and song, creating a reflective atmosphere for the members present. The meeting provided an opportunity for members to introduce themselves and become better acquainted. Fr. Prashanth, the Parish Priest, Mr. Joseph, Ms. Susheela, and Ms. Angel from Koramangala Block 7, as well as Mrs. Laurencia, Ms. Kalicia, Ms. Sindhu, and Ms. Rosaline Gomez from Koramangala Block 5, and JNC Sisters were present for the meeting. The Scripture reading for the gathering was selected from the Gospel of St. Luke (Ch. 6:37-45).

Following the reading, a period of silence was observed for personal reflection. Members then shared their insights and inspirations derived from the scripture, emphasizing the importance of refraining from judgment and condemnation. The discussions highlighted the need for compassion and understanding, recognizing our own weaknesses in the face of others' failures.

Community announcements and discussions:

- Fr. Prashanth addressed the roles and responsibilities of the SCC animators, encouraging them to embrace their duties actively.
- All members were encouraged to bring their Bibles and to adhere to the steps of Lectio Divina in future gatherings.
- Ms. Lawrancia was initiated as the Parish Council member representing Koramangala Block 5.
- Mr. Prasad was appointed as the SCC animator for Block 5, while Ms. Susheela will serve as the Parish council member for Block 7.
- It was decided that members would gather on Saturdays during Lent to pray the Stations of the Cross, with two stations being prayed at each family of the ward.
- The meeting concluded with a prayer, followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments.





NEWS AND EVENTS

PPC and PFC Oathtaking Ceremony

On Sunday, 2nd February, during the 9:30 AM Mass, our parish community gathered to witness the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and Parish Finance Committee (PFC) members. The ceremony began with the new members processing alongside the main celebrant towards the altar, symbolizing their readiness to serve.

Following the post-communion prayer, the new council members stood before the congregation and solemnly pledged to serve the parish with joy, love, and enthusiasm, committing themselves to the well-being of our community. This moment was both a heartfelt farewell to the outgoing PPC and PFC members and a warm welcome to the new team.

After the Mass, a joint meeting of the outgoing and incoming council members was held in the IIPR hall. In a thoughtfully organized program, our Parish Priest expressed deep appreciation for the dedicated service of the outgoing team, presenting each member with a memento in their honour. He then warmly welcomed the new council, outlining their roles and responsibilities, and sharing his expectations for their tenure.

In a symbolic gesture, outgoing members handed over lit candles to the new members, signifying the passing of the light of service and the continuity of commitment.

Some outgoing members shared reflections on their experiences, while the new members introduced themselves and expressed their aspirations for their roles.

The ceremony concluded with a fellowship meal, where joy and happiness were shared among all present. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing council for their unwavering dedication and warmly welcome the new members as they embark on their journey of service to our parish community.
























































Adoration for the Catechism children

The Adoration for the Catechism Children was held on Saturday, **8th February 2025,** and witnessed the enthusiastic participation of a large number of children along with their parents.

The adoration began with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament by Fr. Prashanth Fernandes inviting the children to bow in reverence and adore the Eucharistic Lord. The atmos-phere was filled with devotion as the children knelt in prayer and expressed their love for Jesus.

What made this adoration unique and special was that the entire session was well-conducted by the children themselves. They led the prayers, hymns, and reflections, demonstrating their deep understanding of faith and commitment to worship.

This beautiful time of prayer helped the children experience a profound connection with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, fostering a deeper love for the Eucharist.
It was a spiritually enriching event that left a lasting impression on the young participants, encouraging them to grow in their faith and devotion









Catechism Day Celebration

On **Sunday, 9th February,** our parish joyfully celebrated Catechism Day during the 9:30 AM Mass, presided over by Rev. Fr. Xavier Durairaj, the Minister Provincial of the Franciscans. The celebration highlighted the importance of faith formation within our community.

During the Mass, children who demonstrated exceptional performance in their catechism studies, as well as those with perfect attendance, were recognized and awarded for their dedication. This acknowledgment served to encourage all students to deepen their understanding of the faith.
The catechism teachers were also honoured for their unwavering commitment and enthusiasm in nurturing the spiritual growth of our young parishioners. Their dedication plays a crucial role in the faith formation of our children.

The event was a testament to the collaborative efforts of our parish community in fostering a strong foundation of faith among our youth. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Xavier Durairaj for leading the celebration, to the catechism teachers for their tireless service, and to the parents for their continuous support.
let us remain committed to guiding our children in their spiritual journey, ensuring that the light of faith continues to shine brightly within our community.





ST. ANTHONY'S DAY CELEBRATION

On Thursday, February 13th, our parish joyfully celebrated St. Anthony's day. The solemn Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Jenniston of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. A significant number of devotees attended, participating in a well-organized liturgy that fea-tured readings and hymns in our local languages, enhancing the communal worship experience.

Following the Mass, our Parish Priest expressed heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Jenniston for leading the celebration and extended thanks to the generous individuals who sponsored the fellowship meal. The community then gathered for a Rosary procession, reverently walking around the church campus while praying the Rosary. The evening concluded with Benediction led by Fr. Arockiaswamy, accompanied by uplifting music provided by Mr. Clarence and Mr. Stany. All attendees participated in the anointing ceremony, and the celebration culminated with a shared fellowship meal, strengthening our bonds of faith and community.













DEANERY-LEVEL BIBLE QUIZ

On Sunday, February 16th, 2025, the Bible Quiz was held at the Denary level at St. Joseph's Parish, Adigondanahalli. Five children from Catechism class **(Rian, Jadyn, Nathan, Jeffro, and Leisha)** represented our parish. They were accompanied by Mrs. Pramitha Lobo and Br. Allwin Joseph. The event commenced at 11:00 AM, led by a Jesuit Brother Cannon Fernandes under the dynamic initiative of Fr. Rojo Thomas. With six teams competing, the quiz featured eight intellectually stimulating rounds that tested biblical knowledge, quick thinking, and teamwork.

Among the competitors, two teams stood out for their exceptional competitive spirit; one of them being our parish team. Their determination and confidence made the contest even more thrilling. The Dean of the Denary emphasized that this quiz was not just a competition but a call to dive deeper into the Word of God and uncover the treasures of life.

As the event reached its climax, the winners were felicitated and prizes were distributed, celebrating their dedication and hard work. After a tough contest, our team secured 2nd place! Their energetic and challenging performance was highly appreciated by all present.
The day concluded with a delightful fellowship meal, where participants and mentors shared moments of joy and gratitude. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our Parish Priest, Fr. Prasanth, Dr. Francis Xavier (Sunday School Principal), and all the catechism teachers as well as the parents of the participants for their unwavering support and encouragement. Their guidance continues to inspire our young minds to grow in faith and knowledge.









Eye Check-up Camp

23RD FEBRUARY 2025

A free Eye Check-Up camp was organised by the **Society of St.Vincent de Paul** of St. Anthony's Friary Church at the church campus on **23rd February 2025** for the parishioners. Doctors and Staff of St John's Medical College Hospital, Bangalore extended their services tirelessly after a short prayer by one of their staff, invoking God's presence at the venue.

The camp witnessed as many as seventy-six patients having their eyes checked and leaving the venue with a hope of seeing the world better. The Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Prashanth Fernandes visited the venue and appreciated the work of the doctors and the staff of the hospital. He also acknowledged the efforts of the members of SSVP for arranging the camp.












23/02/2025





The Guardians – Senior Citizens Monthly Meeting

23RD FEBRUARY 2025

The monthly meeting of The Guardians—a senior citizens' group—was held on Sunday, **February 23, 2025**. The gathering began with a prayer led by Benedicta and Philomena Manuel.

The highlight of the meeting was an insightful talk by **Dr. Eliza Pereira,** a Mental Health/Psycho-Social Counsellor and former Counsellor at St. John's Hospital, on the topic:
"Understanding Mental Health Issues in Seniors."

Dr. Pereira provided an in-depth explanation of common mental health challenges faced by senior citizens, including:

- **Depression**
- **Anxiety**
- **Dementia**
- **Loneliness & Social Isolation**
- **Grief: Short-term and long-term suppressed grief**
-

She also discussed:

- **Risk factors for mental health decline**
- **Signs & symptoms to watch for**
- **Overcoming stigma & misconceptions**
- **Strategies for mental health promotion**

Following the talk, members who celebrated their birthdays in February were felicitated. This was followed by an engaging **interactive session** led by Benny D'Souza, who organized a mini **yoga session** and conducted **fun games** for the participants.

The meeting concluded with a **fellowship meal,** generously sponsored by the birthday celebrants. Fr. Prashant, the Parish Priest, also joined the gathering, adding to the joyful atmosphere. The members thoroughly enjoyed the session and look forward to regrouping on **Sunday, March 23, 2025.**









Adoration by Idente Missionary of Christ the Redeemer

On **22nd February 2025** at 5 PM, the Institute Idente Missionary of Christ the Redeemer conducted a special Adoration for our parishioners. The prayer began with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by a Trisagio (in Greek means 'Thrice Holy') led by the Choir (1x Our Father, 3x Hail Mary, 1x Glory Be), repeated three times.





Fr. Subin from the Institute gave a short 2-minute talk based on the theme of Adoration, "Call to Christ." The emphasis was on observing silent prayer, which allows us to listen and pay attention to the inspiration Christ places in our hearts.

The Choir then led a worship song while the Blessed Sacrament was made available for veneration. Finally, the Adoration was concluded with Benediction and was a spiritually enriching experience for the parishioners of St. Anthony Friary Church.

Divine Spark Healing Service

21ST FEBRUARY 2025

On February 21, 2025, the Divine Spark team gathered once again for our monthly Healing Service, which was dedicated to children and followed by the 6 p.m. Holy Mass. The evening began with Rev. Fr. James, OFM reverently exposing the Blessed Sacrament. Together with the choir, we lifted our voices in heartfelt praise and worship, glorifying our Lord Jesus Christ.

Message at the Healing Service:

After a time of sincere praise and worship, Fr. S. Sateesh kumar MSFS delivered a profound message focused on God's love and guidance in the lives of children. He encouraged the young ones and their families to embrace their identity in Christ and trust in His divine plan.



Fr. Satish emphasized three key points:

1.God is Father, Mother, and True Teacher – He reminded us that God is not only our Father but also a caring Mother and our greatest Teacher. He watches over us, nurtures us, and imparts wisdom to guide us through life's journey. As children of God, we are never alone; His love surrounds us at all times.

2.You Are Not Useless – Be Who God Created You to Be – Fr. Satish reassured the children that each of them is precious in the eyes of God. No one is insignificant or unworthy. He urged them to embrace their unique gifts and talents, understanding that God has created each person for a special purpose.

Study and Pray – He encouraged the children to balance their studies with prayer. Just as education is important for their future, so is seeking God's wisdom and strength through prayer. Drawing from Matthew 6:33, he reminded them, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well." When they place their trust in God, He will provide them with the knowledge, strength, and success they need.

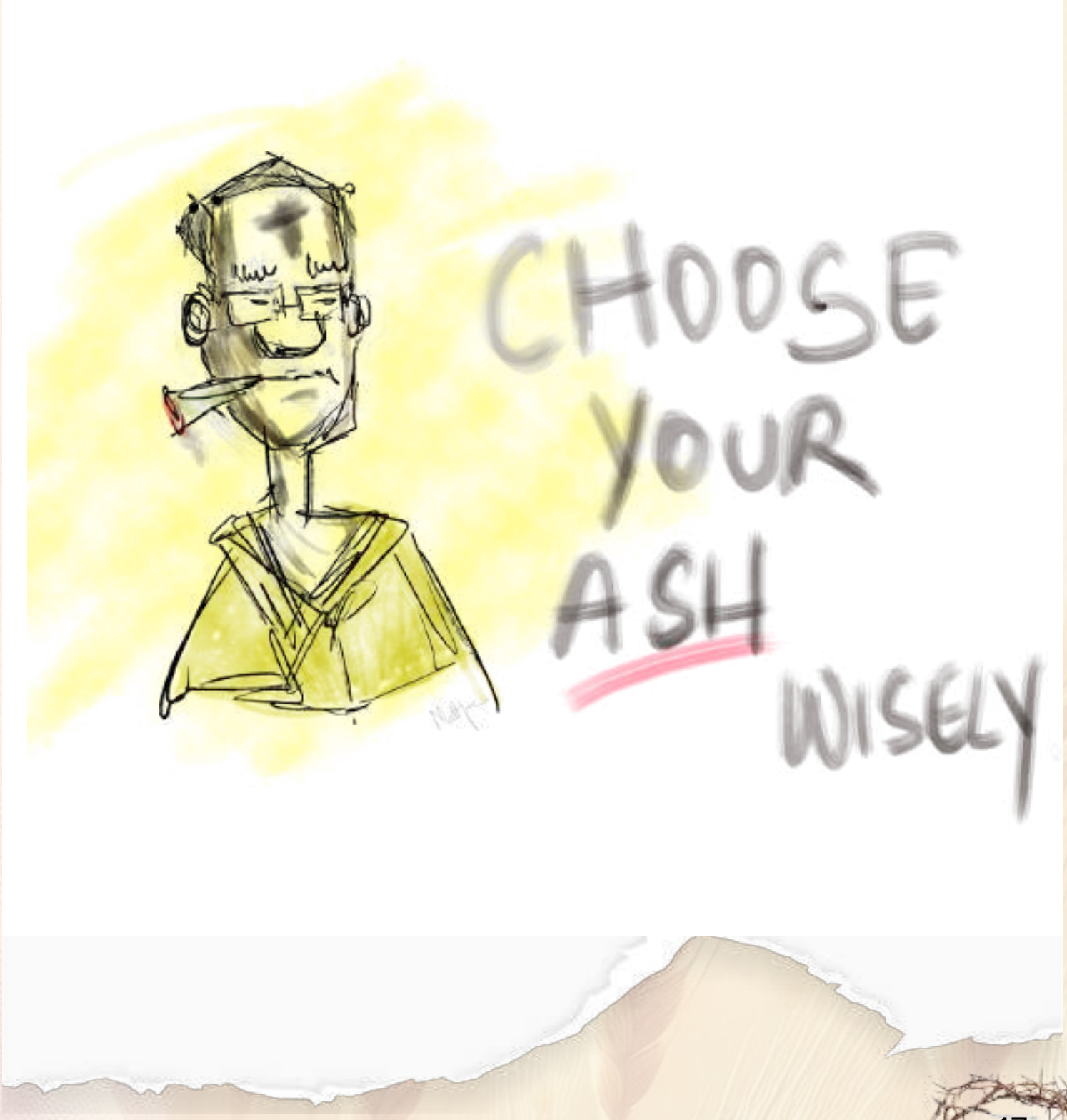


Following the inspiring message, a special prayer for healing and deliverance was offered for all children, especially those preparing for their exams. The evening concluded with a beautiful adoration and the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

ASH WEDNESDAY

CHOOSE YOUR ASH WISELY

- FR. MATHEW OFM



The Marian Ministries

The Marian Ministries team held a vigil prayer meeting February 8 th 2025, at St. Anthony's Friary Church in Bangalore. The event was graciously permitted by the Parish Priests, Rev. Fr. Prashant OFM and Rev. Fr. Arokia OFM.

Over 250 devotees from the Bangalore, Mysore, Coorg, Bellary, and Vijipura & devana halli, Kolar attended the event, which featured classes on the Word of God, Adoration, the Holy Mass. with Fr Arock Fr jeevan prashasth Bengaluru . & Br Peter led these sessions

Four priests from various religious orders offered the sacrament of Confession and spiritual counselling in multiple languages, namely, Kannada, Konkani, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and English, to those seeking spiritual special assistance .Bro. Kiran led the sacred singing, guiding the congregation in singing praises and prayers, while Sr. Prathiba and Sr Maria.

The next Night Vigil Prayer Meeting is planned for the Second Saturday of the month, **March 8 th, 2025 at 9:30 PM.**







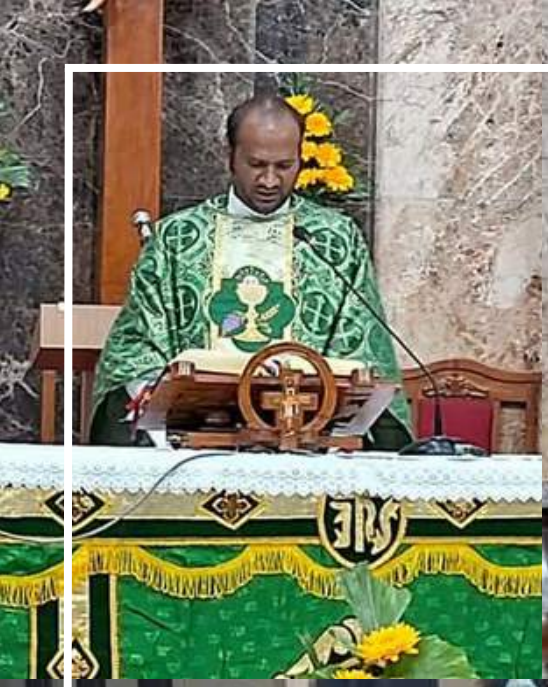
ಮರಿಯನ್ ಮಿನಿಸ್ಟ್ರೀಸ್

ಮರಿಯನ್ ಮಿನಿಸ್ಟ್ರೀಸ್ ತಂಡ ಫೆಬ್ರುವರಿ 8, 2025 ಶನಿವಾರದಂದರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಸಂತ ಅಂತ ೋಣಿ ಫ್ ೈಯರಿ ದ ೋವಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾಗರಣಾ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನಾ ಕ ಟವನರು ನಡೆಸ್ಟ್ಟರ. ಈ ಸ ೋವಾಕಾಯಯಕ ತ ಧರ್ಯಕ ೋಂದರದ ಗುರುಗಳಾದ ರೆ.ಫಾ. ಪ್ರಶಾಂತ್ OFM ಮತರು Rev. FR ಆರೆ ೀಕಿಯಾ OFM ಅನುರ್ತಿ ನೋಡಿ ಸಹಕರಿಸಿದರು.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರರ, ಮೈಸ ರರ, ಬಳಾರಿ, ವಿಜಯಪ್ರ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಕೆ ಡಗರ ಕೆ ೀಲಾರ ಅನೇಕ ಧಮಥಪ್ರಾಂತಯಗಳ್ಳಂದ ಸರಮಾರರ 250 ಭಕುರರ ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಲೆ ಗಂಡಿದದರರ. ಈ ಕಾಯಥಕುಮದಲ್ಲಿ ದೇವರ ವಾಕಯದ ಮೇಲ್ಲನ ತರಗತಿಗಳನು, ಪರರ್ಪರಸಾದ ಆರಾಧನೆಯನು ಮತರು ದಿವಯಬಲ್ಲಪೂಜ ಯನು ಹಾಗ ಫಾದರ್ Fr ಆರೆ ೀಗಯ Fr ಜೀವನ್ ಪ್ರಶಾಂತ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರರ, ಮತರು ಸಹೆ ೀದರ ಪೀಟರ್ ನೀಡಿದರರ

ಆಧ್ಾಯತಿಕ ವಿಶೇಷ ಸಹಾಯ ಬ್ಯಸಿದವರಿಗೆ ಕನುಡ, ಕೆ ಂಕಣಿ, ತಮಿಳು, ತೆಲರಗರ, ಮಲಯಾಳಂ ಮತರು ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಭಾಷೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಲರು ಧ್ಾರ್ಮಯಕ ಸಭ ಗಳಿಗ ಸ ೋ ರಿದ ಗುರುಗಳು ಧಾಮಿಥಕ ಮಾಗಯದರ್ಯನವನು ಪಾಪವಿಖ್ಾಯಪನ ಸಂಸ್ಾರ ಮತರು ಆಧಾಯತ್ಮಿಕ ಸಲಹೆಯನರು ನೀಡಿದರರ. ಸಹ ೋ . ಕಿರಣ್, ಪ್ವಿತು ಗಾಯನವನರು ಮತರು ಸುತಿಯಾರಾಧನ ಯನು ಮರನುಡೆಸ್ಟ್ಟರು; ಸಹೆ ೀದರಿ ಪ್ರತ್ಮಭಾ ಸಹೆ ೀ ದರಿ ಮರಿಯ ರ್ಥು ಇತರರು ಗೋತ ಗಳನರು ಹಾಡಲು ಸಹಕಾರ ನೀಡಿದರರ.

ಮರಂದಿನ ರಾತ್ರಿ ಜಾಗರಣೆ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನಾಕ ಟ ತಿಂಗಳ ಎರಡನೆಯ ಶನಿವಾರ, **ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ,8. 2025 ರಂದು ರಾತ್ರಿ 9:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಇರುತುದ .







ಹಿರಿಯನಾಗರೀಕರಕೂಟದವರದಿ

-ಫಿಲೋಮಿನ ಮ್ಯಾನುವೆಲ್

ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ ತಿಂಗಳಿನ ಹಿರಿಯರ ನಾಗರೀಕರ ಕೂಟವು 23 ನೇ ತಾರೀಖು 11 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಭಜನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಯಿತು. ಆ ದಿನ 46 ಮಂದಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿದ್ದರು. ಡಾ. ಎಲಿಜಾ ಪಿರೇರ "ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಅದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಗಳ" ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು. ಹಿರಿಯರಿಗೆ ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಬಹು ಮುಖ್ಯ. ಅದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಾವು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಗಮನ ಹರಿಸಬೇಕು. ಹೇಗೆ ದೇಹದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯವೊ ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೂಡ ಸೂಕ್ತ, ನಮಗಾಗಿ ನಾವು ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ ಎರಡು ತಾಸಾದರೂ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು. ವ್ಯಾಯಾಮ ಮಾಡುವುದು, ನಡೆಯುವುದು, ರಿಲ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಬಹಳ ಅಗತ್ಯ. ಹಣ ಮತ್ತು ಆಸ್ತಿಯ ಭದ್ರತೆ ಇರಬೇಕು ಆಗ ನಮಗೆ ಗೌರವ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಮುಪ್ಪಿನ ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಸಂಭ್ರಮಿಸಬೇಕು. ಸೌಹಾರ್ದತೆಯಿಂದ ಸಹಬಾಳ್ವೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಸಂತೋಷದಿಂದ ಜೀವಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ಅನೇಕ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ತಾಳ್ಮೆಯಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ನಗುಮುಖದಿಂದ ಉತ್ತರಿಸಿದರು. ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಹಿರಿಯರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಡಾ. ಎಲಿಜಾ ಪಿರೇರ ರವರಿಗೆ ಹೃತ್ಪೂರ್ವಕ ವಂದನೆಗಳು.

ನಂತರ ಮೂರು ಹಿರಿಯ ಸಹೋದರಿಯರ ಹುಟ್ಟು ಹಬ್ಬವನ್ನು ಸಡಗರದಿಂದ ಆಚರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ನಂತರ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಬೆನೆಡಿಕ್ಟಾ ಡಿಸೋಜಾ ರವರು ಕೆಲವು ಸರಳವಾದ ವ್ಯಾಯಾಮಗಳನ್ನು ಹೇಳಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟರು. ಅದರಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲರು ಸಂಕೋಚವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಅನುಸರಿಸಿದರು. ಮರೆಯದೆ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ನಂತರ ಎರಡು ಆಟವನ್ನು ಮಕ್ಕಳಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲರು ಆಡಿದರು. ಗೆದ್ದವರಿಗೆ ಬಹುಮಾನ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಕೊನೆಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಧರ್ಮಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಗುರುಗಳಾದ ಪ್ರಶಾಂತ್ ರವರು ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಭೋಜನವನ್ನು ಆಶೀರ್ವದಿಸಿದರು. ನಿಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಕ್ಕೆ ಕೃತಜ್ಞತೆಗಳು.

ನಮ್ಮ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಲೀನಾ ನೊರೊನ್ಹ ನವರಿಗೂ ಹಾಗೂ ಭೋಜನ ನೀಡಿದ ಹುಟ್ಟು ಹಬ್ಬ ಆಚರಿಸಿದ ಸಹೋದರಿಯರಿಗೂ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೂಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದ ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ಮನದಾಳದ ಧನ್ಯವಾದಗಳು.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 05



ASH WEDNESDAY, DAY OF FAST & ABSTINENCE

Mass Timings: English-6.00 A.M., 9:30 P.M., 12 noon, 5.00 P.M., 6.00 P.M.
Kannada-8.15 A.M., Tamil -7.00 A.M., Malayalam -7.00 P.M.

MARCH 07



FIRST FRIDAY OF MONTH: WAY OF THE CROSS TIMINGS

Kannada- 5.00 P.M. followed by Mass in Kannada
Tamil-6.15 P.M., English-7.00 A.M., 12.30 P.M. & 7.00 P.M.

MARCH 08



LENTEN RETREAT IN ENGLISH FROM 5 P.M. TO 10 P.M.

KANNADA NIGHT VIGIL FROM 09.00 P.M. TO 05.00 A.M.

MARCH 13



ST. ANTHONY'S DAY
(DEVOTION TO ST. ANTHONY)

MARCH 14



WAY OF THE CROSS TIMINGS

Tamil - 5.00 P.M. followed by Mass in Tamil, Kannada- 6.15 P.M.,
English-7.00 A.M., 12.30 P.M. & 7.00 P.M.

MARCH 15



LENTEN RETREAT IN KANNADA
FROM 5 P.M. TO 10 P.M.

MARCH 21



WAY OF THE CROSS TIMINGS

Kannada- 5.00 P.M. followed by Mass in Kannada
Tamil-6.15 P.M., English-7.00 A.M., 12.30 P.M. & 7.00 P.M.

MARCH 22



LENTEN RETREAT IN TAMIL
FROM 5 P.M. TO 10 P.M.

MARCH 28



WAY OF THE CROSS TIMINGS

Tamil - 5.00 P.M. followed by Mass in Tamil, Kannada- 6.15 P.M.,
English-7.00 A.M., 12.30 P.M. & 7.00 P.M.

MARCH 29



LENTEN RETREAT IN KONKANI
FROM 5 P.M. TO 10 P.M.


"Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in the heavens You have made them bright, precious, and fair."