Let light shine out of darkness
Pope Francis has continually emphasized the infinite mercy of a God who never tires of reaching out. Throughout his teachings, the Holy Father has put forth the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a gift that permits each one of us to encounter the mercy of God in a personal and profound way.

"The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a Sacrament of healing. When I go to confession, it is in order to be healed, to heal my soul, to heal my heart and to be healed of some wrongdoing," describes Pope Francis. (General Audience Feb. 2014).

Pope Francis invites all to focus on the Sacrament of Reconciliation as an important dimension of experiencing God’s mercy. The Holy Father says: "So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God’s mercy with their own hands.

(Misericordiate Vultus, #17)

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dear Friends,

Sacrament of Reconciliation has the potential to change us if we allow it and have the desire to live out the graces that have been bestowed on us as a result. In John 8:3-11 we see that, there was no condemnation but a demand: "go now and sin no more". It was not enough for Jesus to forgive but, He now demands from us a change of heart, that our life be different and absent of sin. He demands full conversion, a turning away from all sin and a desire, to live a life of holiness.

Lent is a beautiful time to grow in a deeper love with Christ. Let light shine out of darkness....

Fr. Jitin Kottarathil
Fr. John Kochuveetil
Fr. Jojit Koothungal
Fr. Dhanoop Chungath
Fr. Bibin Mattaparambil
Fr. Fibin Kanjiraparambil

May the Grace and Peace of our Lord be with you in all you do.

Msgr. Emmanuel Kadankavil

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS OF DIOCESE OF KALYAN

Fr. Jitin Kottarathil
Fr. John Kochuveetil
Fr. Jojit Koothungal
Fr. Dhanoop Chungath
Fr. Bibin Mattaparambil
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GOD NEVER TIRES OF FORGIVING US

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Periodically, all of us are subjected to threefold experiences that provoke strong negative emotions within us, such as shame, fear and guilt feelings that can upset our well balanced life that everyone tries to maintain. Fear is always in the light of some impending accident, serious illness, impending doom etc. Shame takes place when our well-maintained self-esteem is threatened by an unexpected incident such as removal from a job due to some malpractice or a false accusation from someone that can even land us in jail. Guilt
feelings arise when we violate some moral code or the commandments of our religion, whether it is known to others or not. On account of this, people who have built up a delicate conscience over the years experience strong feelings of guilt. All these three can bring an upheaval in our life, making a normal, happy life impossible.

Christians have Ten Commandments, and some laws and holy customs of the Church which we are expected to follow in the normal course of our lives. When a violation of these takes place voluntarily or due to pressure from others, it brings about strong resentments within ourselves and one begins to feel internal disturbances. Coupled with that, one also tends to feel that the crime one committed is unpardonable and that God will not forgive us or rather will punish us.

Depending on the gravity of the situation and delicateness of our conscience, it begins to have its toll on our body and mind. We experience abnormality in the day-to-day functioning of our body such as disturbances in blood circulation, digestion, breathing, and ovulation, menstruation in women etc. This disturbed state of mind reflects in one’s work in the form of lowered work performance, slips of tongue, forgetting, misreading and misspelling etc. One begins to experience nightmares in one’s sleep, insomnia, fear of unknown dangers, accident proneness, and sometimes even self-annihilation as in the case Judas Iscariot.

Psychotherapy can be used to relieve a person of these guilt feelings and restore his mental health. But the Sacrament of Reconciliation of the Catholic Church is the best lasting solution to this problem. This sacrament heals the person of his guilt feelings in two ways. It provides a forum for him/ her to pour out whatever is in his/ her mind. Confessing of one’s sins with all their emotional baggage behind them is itself a moment of healing. It is as effective as the cathartic method, a talking cure, advocated by Josef Breuer, a predecessor of Sigmund Freud who helped patients alleviate anxieties through ‘free association’, another method of talking over the problem. If a penitent gets a good confessor, the confessor will provide an atmosphere to help him/ her explore his/ her personal life without any shame or fear. In this non-threatening ambience, one can even touch an area lying hidden in the recess of one’s unconscious mind. Secondly, based on Jesus’ words, ‘If you forgive the sins of any they are forgiven” (John 20/23) The Church possesses the power to relieve all the guilt of the person due to his vitiated life of sin in the past however serious it was. The person is relieved of his past life and restored back to his original innocence. All other religions have various means of purification, like washing with water, taking a dip in the holy river etc. But none of them give a feeling that one is made new. The painful memories can haunt one again and again. Here, the penitent is washed in the blood of Jesus through the sacrament of reconciliation and restored back in his/ her former state of grace. This conviction is the base of one’s mental health.

Therefore, a genuine and sincere confession is the ultimate solution to many of the psychological problems we suffer due to our past sinful life. All what is required is a straight forward admission of our sins like David did and who simply said, ‘I have sinned against the Lord’ (2 Sam 12/13).
Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Manuel Kadankavil, who just completed 25 years as a priest, shares how a priest views a penitent at the confessional.

Fr. Emmanuel, what do you think about me when you listen to my sins at the confessional?

My son, sitting in the confessional I think of Jesus, you and myself. When you confess your sins, I think of Jesus who is so compassionate and unconditionally forgiving. Sitting in the confessional, I think of myself, and realize how awful a sinner I myself am. When you confess, I feel for you as my own child, I think of you as a child of God, and in you I see a brother, in you I see God, in you I see myself. For me, you are more important than your sins. This is what every priest feels at the confessional. Remember that a priest goes through lot of thoughts, feelings, and inner struggles as he listens to your confession but absolutely nothing in terms of judging you or condemning you, but only loving you and feeling lot of compassion for you, because you are on your knee, having humbled yourself, declaring yourself a sinner, with the great hope of being forgiven and desiring the inner peace and serenity which comes from the Lord. How can I deny you all that you hope to get from the confessional? It is my duty to provide you all that you seek. So, you must know, how much greater is my preoccupation at the confessional than yours. So, is the case with every priest at the confessional.

What are some of your unique experiences at the confessional?

· Listening to a confession for the first time was a memorable one. I was already feeling a bit nervous because while heading towards the confessional I saw a man of 65 standing right at the head of the queue – the queue comprised of women and children. I wondered what would I tell an old man of 65 and these elderly women and little children. All need different pieces of advice. However, being conscious of the fact that they expected an anonymous confession, I closed my eyes to give them the impression that I was not going to pay attention to who they are. But when it came to giving advice and the penance, I fumbled. And with regards to the absolution formula, though I had it memorized, I forgot and searched around for the paper containing the formula of absolution and while taking it from the pocket it slipped off my hand and fell right in front of the penitent. I was embarrassed - but I had to get up, pick up the paper and
recite it because: I had learned that the formula of absolution makes the sacrament valid and that it is essential for the penitent to go fully and sacramentally healed.

· I was a mere 27 years old when that happened, and the confessions seemed really complicated. It shocked me when my own father and mother for the first time asked me to hear their confessions. Later on, they have done that at least three times. But, the first time when they asked me, I was breathless, but agreed to. Imagine what sentiments I could have gone through as a child who received life from them – to be a judge over their spiritual life! – to advise them!

Soon the realization came to me that I was not at the judgement throne, but at the seat of mercy, love and compassion - a place to realize and admit my own utter unworthiness. It is amazing to see the trust people put in priests when they come to us. We have to believe that God will work through us. We priests are overcome by awe and wonder when we sit at the throne of mercy and forgiveness – the confessional.

· On a Christmas night, an Italian Mayor walked up to the front pew in the Church, dressed in his official attire and all people in the church stood up in respect for him as was the custom. I was seated at the sanctuary, praying. Seeing all the commotion in the church, I asked the catechist who he was and he explained to me all about him. In a few minutes he moved up to me and said, 'Padre, I would like to make my confession'. Shocked for a moment, I said, 'you are the Mayor and I do
not know much Italian, could you confess to the Italian Parish Priest who would guide you better. He replied saying, 'I know you are an Indian, but you are a priest, you are Christ, I need to speak to Christ, not to any Italian Parish Priest'. I was taken aback by his words. I hastened to the confessional and he came and knelt before his 'Christ' for his confession.

He taught me a lesson - a lesson that I will never forget in my life - that, at the confessional I am not Fr. Emmanuel, I am Christ. And that is the truth, my child. And every priest knows this truth and is fully aware of it at the confessional.

What has changed about how you heard confessions early in your priesthood and how you hear them now?

Now I am 25 years old a priest. The first person to come to me for confession after my jubilee on 29th December 2018, was a priest himself. The main thing I've learned is to encourage people to go deeper with their confessions. What tends to happen is that people say what they did and didn't do, and that's fine; but the deeper question is why? What are the deeper drives? I find that I'm more skilled now at being: able to listen to the things people tell me and understand how they are related to their human struggles and search for the Divine and thence inspire them with the wisdom for living a happy and holy life.

What has listening to people's sins taught you about human nature?

We all have our follies and our struggles. Love the sinner, not the sin. Condemn the sin, not the sinner. Hatesin, not the sinner. Reject sin, not the sinner. There is a call to take sin seriously, but accept the sinner tenderly. Most of the people are tired dealing with their own struggles. Jesus loves them to the core. It is my conviction that Jesus loves every sinner, however hardcore a sinner he or she is. Added to this I've discovered that: their weaknesses and their strengths are closely related. Maybe a person is great at getting along with people in the society, but they fail at home and vice versa. But they are ready to struggle. This has taught me to be more patient with the multiple and complicated human conditions.

What are the feelings and sentiments that a priest goes through at the confessional?

- The first feeling that a priest has, when someone comes to confession is one of relief, that a humble soul has come seeking God's mercy. He esteems their sense of repentance and the desire for grace, along with the hope they place in the efficaciousness of the sacrament. He knows that it is a moment to treat them gently and listen to them patiently.

- Sitting at the confessional, a priest grows into a greater awareness that there is a saint in a sinner and a sinner in every saint. After all, Mary Magdalene, the worst of sinners found favour in the eyes of Jesus and became St. Mary Magdalene. The Samaritan woman who had seven husbands was given special audience by Jesus. She too may have become a saint in the sight of God, though the church has not declared her to be one. Zacchaeus, whose hobby was cheating people, was visited by Jesus at home and being completely transformed, he received the fullness of salvation. Mathew, who was a traitor of his own nation, was made a disciple and perhaps the worst sinner, Augustine became St. Augustine. Moses, who was a murderer became the leader of Israel. David, who was an adulterer and murderer became the most renowned king in the lineage of Jesus. In fact, Jesus is called the 'Son of David'.

- The priest realizes the great truth that everyone is a sinner including him and therefore he must be merciful, compassionate and forgiving towards everyone. He realizes that it is a miracle that from among the sinners, he, a sinner, is chosen to forgive their sins.

- He is overcome by compassion, sympathy and affection for the penitent.
He feels he's a doctor and he desires that his patients go fully cured and consoled. He wants them to come back if they fall sick again, so that he can give them healing and forgiveness and lead them to holiness.

Now I am 25 years a priest. The first person to come to me for confession after my jubilee on 29th December 2018, was a priest himself. The main thing is that I've learned to encourage people to go deeper with their confessions.

He prays for all the persons who come to him for confession and asks the Lord to bring them to his house of mercy and forgiveness, all who shy away from the sacrament.

At the confessional, he really feels he's a father – a loving father – to the soul that comes repentant and begging for forgiveness. There arises a great eagerness and desire to protect these souls from the attack of the devil and his traps just as a father wants to protect his child from the worldly dangers.

He feels he's sitting in the place of Jesus and he needs to be merciful and forgiving. He feels humbled by their humility, simplicity, sincerity and above all their divinity. He knows that it is God who dwells in a repentant sinner. Therefore he/she is a child of God.

At the confessional, a priest realizes the need for reconciliation in his own life. I remember a priest telling me, “I ran to confession after a penitent finished his confession because he was so sincere to himself and to God and to me. I could see God approaching him and I could see Satan flee with fear. Realizing how great a sinner I am and how much I have the need for reconciliation with God and a need to liberate myself from the snares of the devil, I hastened to make my confession”.

At the confessional, a priest feels the joy of having forgiven someone and of having brought great consolation, joy and spiritual contentment to a soul.

He knows that every penitent is a 'good thief' who, the last moment, comes and steals the grace of God and enters His Kingdom. His prayer is, 'Lord, let every 'thief' enter your Kingdom, through the instrumentality of the Confessional - through the grace of the sacrament of confession'.

He knows that God values a repentant sinner 100%. If this is the case, why should a priest remember the sins of any and judge them harshly? Are they not worth more than any other creation in this world? Are they not worthy of the love and mercy of God? “I tell you, not just seven times, but ‘seventy times seven’ times they are worthy of God’s forgiveness and love.
ക്ഷാസ്തിയിലൊരു
മനുഷ്യൻ
കഴിയാത്തവെങ്കിൽ?

Dr. G. Menachery
PhD in Education Psychology from Pune University (1985)
Professor at Bethlehem Minor Seminary, Elinjipra, Thrissur

മനുഷ്യന്റെ, മെനെയഡ്സ് പ്ലസ്റ്റിക്
മോബീൾ പഠനത്തിന് താഴെ പറയാൻ പറയാം
അയാൾ എന്നെഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നു. മനുഷ്യൻ
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കുട്ടികളെ ഉദ്ഭവിപ്പിക്കാൻ, എന്നത് കാലവീര്യത്തിലെ ആശുപത്രികളുടെ ഏറ്റവും ചെറുതായി കാണപ്പെടുന്ന കാലാവധിയുടെ പ്രകാരം പ്രവാചിക്കേണ്ടതും പ്രവാചിക്കേണ്ടതും വിശ്വാസിക്കേണ്ടതുമാണ്. ക്രമാന്വയണപ്രക്രിയയിൽ, നിരോധനം, സന്ദേശം എന്നിവ പ്രഖ്യാപിക്കേണ്ടതും പ്രഖ്യാപിക്കേണ്ടതും ശാസ്ത്രികമായ പ്രപാതം എന്നിവ പ്രഖ്യാപിക്കേണ്ടതുമാണ്. ഒരു കുട്ടിക്ക്, ഒരു ശ്രമത്തിലുള്ള പ്രത്യേകതയും നല്ല ലളിതതയുമുള്ള പ്രഖ്യാപനത്തിൽ ഉദ്ഭവിപ്പിക്കാൻ പാട്ടിയായിരിക്കുന്നു.

പ്രാണോപ്രായത്തിലെ കുട്ടികൾക്കുള്ള സമ്പ്രേതികൾ എല്ലാവരും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകുന്നതിനെ ചിലപ്പോഴും കാണാം. ഏതാനും കാലാവധിയിലെ പ്രവൃത്തികളും ശ്രമം ചെയ്ത് സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകുന്നതിനെ ചിലപ്പോഴും കാണാം. ഏതാനും കാലാവധിയിലെ പ്രവൃത്തികളും ശ്രമം ചെയ്ത് സമ്പ്രേതികൾക്കു നൽകുന്ന പ്രവൃത്തികളുമുള്ള പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകുന്നതിനെ ചിലപ്പോഴും കാണാം.

തന്നെ ഗ്രന്ഥാംശങ്ങൾ പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകുന്നതിനു പരിപാലനം കാരണമായി പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും.

കുട്ടികളെക്കുറിച്ച് നാടിന്റെ സമ്മതിയിൽ ക്രമീകരിക്കേണ്ടതും നാടിന്റെ കാലാവധിയിൽ നാടിന്റെ സമ്മതിയിൽ ക്രമീകരിക്കേണ്ടതുമാണ്. ഏതാനും കാലാവധിയിലെ പ്രവൃത്തികളും ശ്രമം ചെയ്ത് സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും പ്രാണരൂപം നൽകാനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും സമ്പ്രേതികളും.
Mr Antony Cyriac is a member of Mother of Victory Church, Thane. He is a lifelong learner and a Catechist in the parish.

The most common thing that is associated with the New Year is a New Year Resolution. One plans to exercise more, sleep better, drop bad habits, nurture relationships and learn new skills at the onset of the year. Our dreams and plans are fueled by an anticipation of a fresh start, an opportunity to hit the reset button and become a new person. Who does not like a fresh start?

The liturgical season of the Church calls us with a similar opportunity to start anew, to discard the old self and put on the new, in the coming month with the Season of Lent. Lent offers the occasion for a spiritual rejuvenation, to wake up from the slumber of a spiritual winter and bring forth new shoots of a closer union with God. This is apparent in the origin of the word Lent, which is a Germanic word for Spring, the season for new life. Lent is also a season of special grace. It is a shot in the arm for running the race with renewed vigor.

But so many times, like the New Year Resolutions, our resolve fizzes away and we are left frustrated and disappointed because we are unable to meet the goals.

In practical life, this may be the difference between trying to pray a complete rosary or reading one chapter of the bible each day and completing five decades of the rosary or reading one page of the bible each day.
we set for ourselves. Especially in the case of Lent, one stumbles on spiritual roadblocks and gives up the journey disheartened, relapsing into the old ways of one's behavior. In this article, we will look carefully into this issue and see some practical suggestions that can be applied immediately to equip us better for this lent.

The fundamental idea that one needs to grasp at the onset is that all good things come from God and that we are not capable of doing anything good without His help. God loves a humble soul. We should approach this walk with humility surrendering ourselves to God and ask Him to make us the best version of ourselves - according to His will and not our will. This requires a total, unconditional surrender and asking His opinion about all things we resolve to do. With this thought underpinning our efforts, we can strive to improve our Lenten experience.

One practical aspect which can aid our growth is to understand the difference between intensity and consistency in our efforts. For eg. You might go to a dentist to fix a toothache (intensity), but if you fail to brush your teeth every day (consistency), you will not see any significant deterioration immediately, but ultimately will end up losing all your teeth.

Consistency matters more than intensity in the long run, hence, resolve to be consistent in the spiritual practices you wish to develop. In our practical life, this may be the difference between trying to pray a complete rosary or reading one chapter of the bible each day and completing five decades of the rosary or reading one page of the bible each day.

A second practical idea which can help the Lenten experience is to modify your environment to aid you in your practices. When you resolve to read the Bible every morning, keep the Bible next to your bed as you go to sleep. In case you wish to attend daily morning mass, keep a set of freshly pressed clothes assembled the previous night. If you resolve to recite a rosary during the day, keep a rosary in your purse or pocket.

The Bible tells us to flee temptation, not entertain it at a distance. One is taught to avoid near occasions of sin. Many people give up Facebook or watching their favorite media programs, video games etc for lent. For these kinds of resolutions, it is easy to fall back since it is too easy to access those which you wish to avoid.

We can strengthen our commitment by countering this ease of access and making it more difficult to slip into old habits. You can put the mobile on silent mode and lock it in a drawer as soon as you reach home. Similarly, remove the charger of the laptop and keep it separate from the Laptop and keep the laptop in a bag, away from the living room. After watching TV, switch off the plug and physically remove the plug from the socket. You can have someone change the password of your social media account and reveal it only after the Lenten season has passed. The key is to make each bad habit you wish you avoid, out of sight in your daily life thus making it more difficult to indulge in.

Another practical idea would be to break up the good habits you wish to accomplish for Lent into small portions which can be done without much difficulty throughout the day. For eg., if you wish to recite the Rosary, you can break it into five decades and allocate certain times during the day when you have two minutes to recite a decade. Recite one decade while walking to the bus stop, the second one before having breakfast, the third one before lunch, etc. This way you will be able to finish a decade before the temptation comes to stop praying. And you will end up praying throughout the day.

Use technology to set reminders on your phone to remind you at specific times of the day to pray or meditate or do a daily examination. If you wish to start a habit of reading the Bible, start by reading only for two minutes at a time as soon as you get up. Stop as soon as you reach two minutes. You will find over time that you want to read more without feeling distracted.

The last and the most important idea is both practical and spiritual. Since lent is a time of special graces, use this opportunity for frequent reception of the Sacraments of Communion and Confession. Renew each day a promise with Christ to transform you into a new person at Communion. When you fail, do not feel dejected, but in all humility return immediately to the Confessional and start again. Padre Pio invited all believers to confess at least once a week. He said: “Even if a room is closed, it is necessary to dust it after a week.”

To wrap up, consistency in our prayer life, reading the scripture daily, reciting the rosary and frequent reception of the sacraments, while rejecting the near occasions of sin, will aid you in overcoming spiritual roadblocks and help you be transformed in Christ this Lent.

Wish you a Happy Lent!
"WHY TO CONFESS?"
AN ALARMING QUESTION

"Why to Confess?" is an alarming question we hear today. Even I used to confess only because my parents used to force me. But while I was in my Xth Std, I heard a talk on confession during a retreat and I realised that confession in itself can be beautiful. It is the Sacrament of Love where Divine Love embraces a sinner like me. Since then, after every confession, I make it a point to be with my best Friend - Eesho in silence. It's like I am once again in the arms of the Almighty, like a lamb in the arms of its Shepherd. After a good confession, I always feel as if all my worries, burdens, hatred, sadness, and even internal wounds are being washed away and I feel reborn. To me, both Sacrament of Eucharist and Reconciliation are the like oars of the boat of my life, without which my life will never reach HIM.

Ms. Stephey Sebastian
St. Peter's Church, Satpur, Nashik

Psalms 32:5 says, "Then I confessed all my sins. I did not conceal my wrong doing. I decided to confess them to you who forgave all my sins." For me personally, confession is one of the most important sacraments as it helps me know our Lord and his love towards us being sinners, better. During confession, I usually open my self to Jesus via the priest or we could say that it is during confession that I accept the fact that I am a sinner and I just surrender my sins and myself to Jesus, which I know is only between me and him. One of my greatest experiences within confession is that there have been times when I was totally broken or could not concentrate on anything and it was at the confessional that the concerned priest suggested me to be more open to the Lord and to try to be more open to his spirit. He asked me to believe that the Lord loved me even though I was a sinner. He asked me to always remember that through confession, we are constantly trying to be more close to him, thus ensuring the safekeeping of our being.

Alen Siby
St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara Church, Dighi, Pune

"No one who conceals transgressions will prosper but one who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy." Proverbs 28:13

Both in Scripture and the teachings of the Church, we note that special impetus is placed on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament is the only ordinary means for the forgiveness of sins after Baptism that the Church knows of. Forgiveness of sin or guilt and healing of the wound caused by sin are the attributes associated with this Sacrament. All our sins harm our relationship with God and with other members of the community. It is simply not OK to ask God for forgiveness of your sins. Sin creates a separation. The Sacrament of Penance or the Sacrament of Reconciliation is about mending that separation or reconciling ourselves with God and the community.

Each time I make my Confession, my heart is filled with joy and makes me happy. It takes away the burden I often carry from my office and home. At times, when I am down and low, burdened by the storms of life, I run to the Confessional and empty my sins to Jesus and instantly Jesus fills me with his peace which passes all understanding.

Frequent Confession has enabled me much to grow in my spiritual life since the Sacrament provides me the grace or the anointing to overcome my habitual sins. The fact that when I confess my sins, I am actually transferring my sins unto Jesus who died for my sins and that of the whole world.

Last but not the least, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a very versatile gift the Lord has provided me through the Church. Prior making major decisions at home or at my work, I ensure that I make my Confession. This has helped me on several occasions as I am able to hear the Lord's voice clearly and therefore enables to take decisions easily.

Anonymous
Ms. Stephy Sebastian never reach the Eucharist and Reconciliation are my sacraments. The wounds are being washed away and I feel reborn. To make it a point to be with my best Friend—Eesho in the Sacrament of Love where Divine Love embraces us. Silence is like I am once again in the arms of the Almighty, like a lamb in the arms of its Shepherd. It’s like I am being transferred to a different world to make friends of my parents used to force me. But while I was in my Xth Std, I heard a talk on confession during a retreat and I could say that it is during confession that I accept the fact that I am a sinner and I just surrender my sins and transferring my sins unto Jesus who died for my sins. The fact that I am a sinner and I just surrender my sins and not conceal my wrong doing. I decided to confess frequently at the confessional as it helps me know our Lord and his love personally, confession is one of the most important sacraments as it helps me know our Lord and his love personally. During confession, I open myself to Jesus via the priest or we usually open ourself to Jesus via the priest and it was at the confessional that the concerned person that special impetus is placed on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Both in Scripture and the teachings of the Church, we are associated with this Sacrament. All our sins harm our relationship with God and with other members of the community. It is simply not OK to ask God for forgiveness of sin or guilt and reconcile ourselves with God and the community. Reconciliation is about mending that separation or reconciling ourselves with God and the community. "No one who conceals transgressions will prosper decisions easily. The community knows of. Forgiveness of sin or guilt and reconciliation are done in the Sacrament of Love where Divine Love embraces us. The Church knows of. Forgiveness of sin or guilt and reconciliation are done in the Sacrament of Love where Divine Love embraces us. The Church knows of. 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Forgiveness of sin or guilt and reconciliation are done in the Sacrament of Love where Divine Love embraces us. The Church knows of.

The Holy Qurbana - 73
KALYAN LANTERN | FEBRUARY 2019

OMENALILLOTHAMA DHARMA

Bali Dwayne Thonampett
Kalyan Ezhukumalti Dass
Here we pray in the fourth Gehantha: ‘Let all the people on earth know that you alone are the true God, the Father and that you sent your beloved Son Jesus Christ.’ This prayer reminds us of the prayer of Solomon in the O.T. After the dedication of the temple of God Solomon raising his hand towards heaven prayed in front of the altar (1 Kings 8:22ff). There too he remembered the Fathers who were pleasing before God and thanked God who gave them peace and prosperity (8:56-57). In this Gehantha prayer too we remembered the Fathers and prayed for peace. At the end, Solomon too prayed in this way: “So that all people of earth may come to know that Yehweh is God in deed, and that there is no other” (8:60). It means that they earnestly desired that all people would come to know the mercy of God that they experienced at the time of the dedication of the temple and the offering of sacrifice. So the community of people who offer the sacrifice of Christ and obtain this mercy desire and pray that ‘all people on earth should know’ these blessings and mercy of God.

You sent your beloved Son

This prayer is an expression of the missionary zeal of the community and the Church. Let us also remember the words of St. Paul: “He wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4). He also mentions what is the truth that all people should know:
"For, there is only one God and there is only one mediator between God and mankind Christ Jesus" (2:5). So too St. John writes: ‘And eternal life is this: to know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent’ (Jn. 17:3). This same idea is reflected in this prayer. Here, in this Gehantha too, we pray in the same words “you alone are the true God and that you sent your beloved Son Jesus Christ”.

Let all People know

In the second part of the Gehantha, this prayer is repeated ‘May all people know that Christ... came and taught us the way of purity and sanctity’. This prayer is the clear expression of the missionary orientation of the church and the worshiping community. Let this prayer enkindle the fire of missionary zeal in our hearts.

Christ Came

The prayer beginning with ‘May all people know that Christ... came and taught’, till ‘living and life giving seal of baptism’ is the second part of this Gehantha prayer. Here we remember the salvific actions of Christ. Here Jesus is called ‘Our Lord and God’. In these words, the Church is proclaiming her faith in Christ in the words of the faith expression of St. Thomas, Jesus came to us through incarnation and taught us. He continues to come to us through His Word and Sacraments. The Gospel proclaimed by Jesus is qualified as ‘the life giving Gospel’. In the Raza there is a hymn before the reading of the Gospel. There the Word of God is qualified as ‘the living and life giving Word’. The Gospel of Jesus who came to give us life in abundance, is life giving. Hence St. Peter proclaimed: “You have words of eternal life” (Jn. 6:68).

Taught us the Way

As we read in book of Hebrews: “God has spoken in the past to our ancestors through the prophets in many different ways... But He has spoken definitively to us through His Son” (Heb. 1:1-2). It is through the Gospel that Jesus taught us the way of purity and sanctity. Jesus Himself is the way (Jn. 14:6).

We see that Jesus taught tree categories of people. First of all prophets, apostles, martyrs, confessors and doctors of the Church. These are the group of holy people who faithfully followed and lived according to the teachings of Christ. Here by the prophet is meant all those people who were given divine insight into the divine mysteries. Second group consists of bishops, priests and deacons. These are the ministers who should show to the people the way that in taught by Christ and who should lead them through the way. The third group consists of all those who have been signed by the seal of baptism and are made children of the Holy Catholic Church. Thus all the categories of people in the Church are included here. This includes all those who gave us the salvific message of Christ though their life and teachings. This prayer reminds us that the whole members of the mystical body of Christ come together as we offer our prayer and worship to God.

**BISHOP’S DIARY**

**February - 2019**

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<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Communion - Dombivli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Qurbana &amp; Baptism of 5th Child - Nerul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Communion &amp; Confirmation - Jerimeri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Minor Seminary Class - Panvel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Monthly Recollection &amp; Presbytery - Bishop’s House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Curia Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Communion &amp; Confirmation - Kalewadi</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Minor Seminary Class - Panvel</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Communion &amp; Confirmation - Malad (W)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Pastoral Visit - Bandra (W)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Curia Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>Golden Jubilee DST Congregation - Malad (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>Communion &amp; Confirmation - Nerul</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Silver Jubilee - M.C. Road Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Minor Seminary Class - Panvel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th-20th</td>
<td>Class on Eucharist - Aluva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st</td>
<td>Curia Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>Communion &amp; Confirmation - Ulhas Nagar</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th</td>
<td>Conclusion of the year of Young Couples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th</td>
<td>Minor Seminary Class - Panvel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th-27th</td>
<td>Junior Priests Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Here's the next writing prompt:
Write in about 100 words about “What do you love the most about your parish feast?” You can write about the saint, the festivities for the feast, your role or your family's role in the feast day preparation, etc. Send in your articles to lanternkidsroom@gmail.com on or before 15th February 2019.

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**PATRON SAINT CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patronage</th>
<th>Saint</th>
<th>Feast Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Brides</td>
<td>St. Dorothy</td>
<td>February 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Engineers</td>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>March 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Musicians</td>
<td>St. Cecilia</td>
<td>November 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Travelers</td>
<td>St. Christopher</td>
<td>July 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Athletes</td>
<td>St. Sebastian</td>
<td>January 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Infants</td>
<td>St. Philomena</td>
<td>August 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Children</td>
<td>St. Nicholas</td>
<td>December 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Mothers</td>
<td>St. Monica</td>
<td>August 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Internet</td>
<td>St. Isidore</td>
<td>April 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Soldiers</td>
<td>St. Adrian</td>
<td>September 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Animals</td>
<td>St. Francis</td>
<td>October 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Accountant</td>
<td>St. Mathew</td>
<td>September 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Youth</td>
<td>St. Aloysius</td>
<td>June 21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Winners of Activity 1: PATRON SAINT CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Sr. No. | Name                                                                 |
---|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
1.  | Shanelle Pallikunnath, St. Joseph Church, Airoli                       |
2.  | Shaunna Pallikunnath, St. Joseph Church, Airoli                       |
3.  | Reshma Ruby, Little Flower Church, Dahisar (E)                         |
4.  | Joel Shaji, Wagle Estate, Thane                                         |
5.  | Christymol Cherian, St. Thomas Church, Vashi.                          |
6.  | Kevin Joseph, San Jos Parish, Mahakali                                 |
7.  | Alona Brito, St. Alphonsa parish, Mankhurd                             |
8.  | Marylene Francis, St. Alphonsa Church, Mankhurd                        |
9.  | Glennis Joy, St. KuriakoseeliasChavara Church, Kandivili East         |
10. | Selwyn Saji, Our Lady of Rosary Parish, Katraj, Pune                   |
11. | Mr. Kevin Sajan, St. Thomas Catholic Forane Church, Borivli           |
12. | Adhira Albert, Christ the King Church, Bhandup                         |
13. | Asher Abraham, Mary matha church, Kamothe, Navi Mumbai                |
14. | Kevin Siby, St. George Forane Church Panvel                            |
15. | Jeron Lijo, St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Pune                           |
16. | Abin Kuriachan, Sacred Heart Church, Bhayander                         |
17. | Angeline Shaji, Amala Matha Church, Mulund Parish                      |
18. | Sherlyn Shaji, Amala Matha Church, Mulund Parish                       |
19. | Ishita Tom, St. Mary’s Forane Church, Nasik                            |
20. | Jeslin Palamuttam, St. Sebastian Parish, Amboli, Andheri West         |
21. | Ann Johnson Kizhakail, St. Sebastian Mahim Forane Church               |
22. | Lloyd Jose, Sacred Heart Church, Bhayander East                        |
23. | J ojo J oseph, Infant J esus Church, Kharghar                          |
24. | Alan Thomas, Pawan Nagar, Nashik                                       |
25. | Nikhita Leo, Amala Matha Church, Mulund                               |
26. | Helen Elizabeth Sibi, Sacred Heart Church, Bhayander                   |
27. | Riya Mariya Reji, St. Alphonsa Forane Church, Kalywadi, Pune           |
28. | Divya Shantolyuyu, St. Thomas Catholic church, Dapodi, Pune            |
29. | Allen Antony, St. Joseph Church, Pavan Nagar, Nasik                    |
30. | Mark Varghese Panjikaran, Sacred Heart Church Gorgaon West            |
31. | Allan Allwyn, St. Sebastian Church, Kanjurmarg                       |
32. | Akhila K Joseph, Mother of J esus Forane Church , Antophill           |
33. | Siyamary Roy, St. Joseph Church, Akurdi                               |
34. | Aaliya Varghese, Infant J esus Church Vikhroli                       |
35. | Raibi Thomas, St. Joseph Church, Pawan Nagar, Nashik                   |
36. | John Joseph, St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara Church, Kandivali East       |
37. | Jenita J oby, Sacred Heat Church, Bhayandar                            |
38. | Angela Bijoy, Infant jesus parish, Tilaknagar                         |
39. | J uliet Toyson, St. Mary’s Church, Malad East                        |
40. | Fautina Salin Yarathingal, St. Thomas Catholic Church, Virar West     |
**Selected entries for Activity 2:**

**Merry Christmas! Imagine you took Santa’s job this year!**  
**How would you handle your magic voyage around the world?**

**THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

If Santa Claus gave me his job this year, then I would be jumping in the air with happiness. Who wouldn’t love to give gifts to everyone? First of all, I would ask Santa if I could borrow two of his flying reindeers. The bells on their neck would jingle all the way. I would make a checklist of gifts to give away. Secondly, once my carriage is ready, I will wear the red Santa Claus costume and wear a pillow with a belt because I don’t have a big tummy like him. I will practice Santa’s laugh, “Ho, Ho, Ho!” With my bag of gifts, sweets and chocolates, my carriage and reindeers, I would go across the town to give gifts to everyone. All children know that Santa Claus will come. They will be eager to receive their gifts. In the end, after giving gifts to everybody, I would keep a huge talking Panda with me, as my little Christmas gift for being a good Santa Claus! So, friends whenever you need any help from Santa, just call me! **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**Glennis Joy**

is in the Post Communion Section and belongs to St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara Church, Kandivali East

**MAGICAL CHRISTMAS**

I would start my job 12 days before Christmas. I would send two elves to each continent and would ask them to bring me a report at the end of the day about children who have been naughty and nice. Other elves would make gifts. The gift making machine would make gifts according to the checklist of gifts and the wrapping machine would wrap them. The elves would pack the gifts in sacks and place them onto the sleigh. Reindeers would be well fed and the sleigh would be cleaned, fixed and decorated. During this time, I would take a nice nap. Oh come on! Don’t I have to stay awake all night? Before I start my journey, I’d pray to Infant Jesus that nothing should go wrong, this Christmas and that all the children be happy. I would get onto my sleigh and, hey-ho at the blink of an eye, I would go up in the sky! Country to country, house to house, I would drop gifts down the chimneys. I’d even write letters to all those naughty children, to be good next time. It would be a magical Christmas for me!

**Ms. Rose Kodian**

is in the 7th Std, Pre Confirmation Section and belongs to St. Thomas Cathedral church, Kalyan (W)

**A VOYAGE AROUND THE WORLD**

One cold night, I bid goodbye to everyone and started off my journey alone, wearing the red suit and cap, riding the reindeer sledge to give gifts to all. I reached the first house. There, I saw a beautiful oil lamp shining and a nicely decorated Christmas tree. I knocked at the door. The children were delighted to see me. I gave them their gifts, patted their back for being good children and went to the next house. Like this, I went to many other houses giving gifts and feeling wonderful after looking at the happiness of the children. Thereafter, I went to a different place, with are freshening climate. I was overjoyed to see the children dancing and singing Christmas carols. After a tiring journey, I reached home, feeling happy in my heart. I am thankful to Santa for giving me his job because of which I got a chance to travel the world. Christmas is a season which celebrates the birth of Jesus, with joyous hearts. Wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

**Riya Mariya Reji**

is in the 5th Std., Post Communion Section and belongs to St. Alphonsa Forane church Kalewadi, Pune.

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If you wish to share an article, want to read about any topic of your interest, do let us know! You can mail us at lanternkidsroom@gmail.com

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Kids’ corner, compiled by Elizabeth Dimal
Synod approves canonization process of Mgr Joseph Kandathil and Fr. Varkey Kattarath

The Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church, has approved the process of canonization of Mgr Joseph Kandathil, the founder of Assisi Sisters of Mary Immaculate (ASMI), and Fr Varkey Kattarath, the founder of the Vincentian Congregation.

MgrKandathil was known for his work among leprosy patients, which earned him the name ‘Kerala Damien’. MgrKandathil, born in 1904 in Chembu near Vaikom, received the priesthood in 1933. He established a leprosy hospital in Cherthala in 1942, and ASMI in 1949. He passed away in December 1991.

Fr Varkey Kattarath, born in 1851 in Punjaar near Pala, received priesthood at the age of 22. He founded the Vincentian Congregation on 20 November 1904 on the model of the Congregation of the Mission (C.M.), founded by St. Vincent de Paul in France with three diocesan priests, with the approval and encouragement of Louis Pazheparampil, the first Vicar Apostolic of Ernakulam.

Father Augustine John Ukken a step closer to sainthood

Pope Francis has authorized the promulgation of 12 decrees on the causes of saints, among which is Indian Syro-Malabar priest Fr. Augustine John Ukken, taking him a step closer to sainthood.

Father Augustine John Ukken was born in Parappur in Thrissur district on 19 December 1880 as the second son of Punnaparambil Ukken Anthappan and Chalakkal Annamma, both of whom died by the time Augustine was the age of six. The local parish priest provided him shelter and an education in the upper primary school. Around 1895 Bishop Adolphus Medlycott had Augustine enrolled at the Minor Seminary in Trichur to complete his education.

In 1898, Ukken was sent to Kandy in Sri Lanka to study for the priesthood. He was ordained priest on 21 December 1907, by Dr Clements Pagany, the Canty Bishop.

On 21 November 1944, he founded Congregation of the Sisters of Charity with the approval of George Alapatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Thrissur. The charism of the congregation is “caring of the sick, tending those who are in deathbed, uplifting the poor and giving catechetical formation”. He died on 13 October 1956, at Chowannur in Thrissur district.

His canonization process was started on 30 November 2007 and was declared as Servant of God by Metropolitan Archbishop of Thrissur Mar Andrews Thazhath at the Our Lady of Lourdes Metropolitan Cathedral on 24 August 2008.

New office bearers elected for CCBI

Archbishop Filipe NeriFerrão of Goa and Daman was elected as the new President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops’ of India (CCBI) by the 31st Plenary Assembly of the National Episcopal Conference of India, at Joe Animation Centre, Mahabalipuram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.He will replace Oswald Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay who served the Conference as its President for three terms of two years each from 2013 to 2019.

Archbishop George Antonysamy of Chennai-Mylapore and Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto of Delhi were re-elected CCBI Vice president and Secretary General respectively.

The CCBI is canonically the National Episcopal Conference for the Latin rite Catholics. It is the largest Bishops Conference in Asia and the fourth largest in the world. It consists of 132 dioceses with 189 bishops.
Syro-Malabar Church gets new diocese in Canada

Cardinal George Alencherry, head of the Syro-Malabar Church, on Saturday announced the constitution of a new diocese of the church in Mississauga, Canada with Monsignor Jose Kalluvelil as its first bishop. He told a press conference that Pope Francis had raised Mississauga, which was till now an Apostolic Exarchate, to the status of a diocese.

Mississauga was until now an apostolic exarchate, an ecclesiastical territory that is similar to a diocese but without the status of a diocese. An exarchate is raised to a diocese when the number of faithful increases and setting up of parishes and other structures.

Mississauga was made an exarchate on August 6, 2015 with Monsignor Kalluvelil as its apostolic exarch.

The diocese has jurisdiction over its people living in Canada. It has nine provinces, 12 parishes, 34 mission centers catering to more than 20,000 faithful. The exarchate that started with two priests now has 23. Seven people are getting trained to be priests. The diocese is also served by 12 sisters from three congregations. It has four churches, including the cathedral.

The bishop-elect was born on November 15, 1955, at Thottuva near Kuravilangad in Kerala. After his family shifted to Palakkad, Kalluvelil joined the Palghat diocese. After studies in St Thomas Apostolic Seminary in Vadavathur, Kottayam, he was ordained a priest on December 18, 1984. He has a doctorate from Salesian University Rome.

He was appointed exarch when he was serving the Syro-Malabar Catholics in Toronto. Mississauga is the fourth Syro-Malabar diocese outside India after Chicago, Great Britain and Australia.

Click to Pray: Pope launches prayer app

During the Sunday Angelus prayer in St. Peter’s Square on January 20, Pope Francis unveiled his very own user profile in Click To Pray, the official app of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, including its youth branch, the Eucharistic Youth Movement – EYM.

He specifically called for young people to download the app and pray with him for World Youth Day 2019, which takes place in Panama from 22-27th January 2019. For this event, the platform includes a special multimedia section to pray and meditate the Rosary for Peace.

Click To Pray (www.clicktopray.org) is a platform that invites men and women from around the world, to accompany the Pope in a mission of compassion for the world. It has a website and a mobile app, both for Android and iOS, with its social networks, available in six languages (Spanish, English, Italian, French, Portuguese, and German).

Click To Pray has three main sections: “Pray with the Pope”, with the Pope’s monthly prayer intentions for the challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church; “Pray every day”, with a prayer rhythm involving three daily moments; and “Pray with the network” that is a space where users (Pope Francis among them) can share their prayers with the others. Pope’s Francis own profile (https/ / www.clicktopray.org/ en/ user / popefrancis) can be found clicking in the Pope Francis button at the “Pray with the Network” section.
Question:
Why do we need to confess to a priest? Why can't we have a direct dialogue with God?

Answer:
The words of 1 Timothy 2:5, "there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" seem to put a question mark over the role of a priest in a Confession. Since the business is between the penitent and God, anyone (other than Christ) coming in between, would be viewed suspiciously. At this point, an understanding of the concept of "In persona Christi" would help. It is a Latin phrase meaning "in the person of Christ" and denotes that even though the apparent doer of an action is someone else, the real or hidden doer is deemed to be Christ himself.

The concept of In persona Christi has parallels in secular practice. In the days of the kings and the queens, whenever the monarch wanted to delegate his authority to a trusted courtier, he just handed over his seals to him. Thereafter any document issued by that courtier and affixed with the royal seal, carried the same authority as if issued by the king himself. Nobody could trash such an edict as not being the king's actually. The modern day equivalent is "Power of Attorney".

In Matthew 9:6, we see Jesus forgiving a paralytic and then healing him, specifically to underline his absolute authority to forgive sins. Now please fast forward to the pre-Ascension stage, where we see him telling his apostles, "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you". Then he breathes on them and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (Jn 20:21-23). These words leave no scope for doubt that he has put the apostles 'in his shoes' in this department. The successors of the apostles, viz. the bishops (and by extension the priests), exercise this office In persona Christi, and that's true of all the sacraments.

To confess to a priest means to seek forgiveness the way Christ intended it to be sought. Not only that, through it we learn a lesson in humility which is conveniently avoided when we confess only through private prayer. Additionally, we receive sacramental graces; for through the sacrament of penance, not only are sins forgiven, but also graces are obtained.

For Team Lantern,
Mr. A.F. Thomas,
Borivli Parish
Kalyan Mathrusangam conducted the Annual General Body Meeting on 02nd Dec, 2018 at Animation and Renewal Center, Panvel. His Excellency Mar Thomas Elavanal, Bishop of Diocese of Kalyan, graced the meeting. 18th edition of Mahiladarshan was released on this occasion.

Various cultural programs marked the whole event which involved parishes from various Foranes. Over 600 mothers from all over the Diocese attended the function. His Excellency gave away the awards for the Literary competitions that were held. Recognition in the form of cash prize was given away to children who scored the maximum in “Marathi” in the SSC Board of 2018. Mothers with exemplary achievement in the last year were also felicitated.

Women’s Day Celebrations to be held on 10th Mar, 2019 at The St Thomas Cathedral Church, Kalyan (W)

**TUG-OF-WAR TOURNAMENT**

Kalyan Diocese Pithruvedi was conducted Tug-of-war Tournament on 30th December, 2018 at the Ground adjacent to St. Alphonsa Forane Church, Vasai (West). 18 teams participated from various Forane of Kalyan Diocese. Pithruvedi Director Fr. Shibu Pulickal inaugurated the tournament.

**Following teams are the winners of the competition:**

1st Prize: Mary Martha Church Sakinaka - (₹ 25000/- + Rolling Trophy)
2nd Prize: St. Thomas Church Vasai (E) - (₹ 20000/- + Trophy)
3rd Prize: St. Alphonsa Forane Vasai (W) - (₹ 15000/- + Trophy)
4th Prize: St. Thomas Catholic Church Mira Road - (₹ 10000/- + Trophy)

Prize distribution done by Fr. Shaju Adambakallel & Fr. Varghese Nadakkal
DIOCESAN NEWS

TALENTIA 2018-19

DIOCESE of KALYAN witnessed the unveiling of marvelous talents of her own youth for Talentia 2018-19, which was held on 13th January, at St. Thomas Cathedral Church, Kalyan West. The aim was to encourage different talents and thus 4 new events like KEY Play, Giphy, Once upon a time.. and Scene Contra were brought into the frame along with all time successful events like Breakthru, Debate, Blank Canvas and Open Mic Challenge, setting the benchmark higher than ever before.

The mega cultural event which saw a gathering of more than 1000 youth, witnessed ordinary youngsters transforming themselves into artists, actors, dancers, singers, poets, beat boxers, mimicry artists and much more. Vicar General of our diocese, Msgr. Emmanuel Kadankavil, who blessed the event with his presence, proudly gave away the prizes to the winners of the respective categories and appreciated the efforts of Kalyan Eparchy Youth. The event thus turned out to be a cultural warfare in its true sense.

**EUPHONY 2018-19 — WINNERS**

**Sub - J uniors**

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<th>Location</th>
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<td>Pune</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scene Contra</td>
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<td>Powai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depiction of Bible Scene</td>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>Nashik</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Action Song</td>
<td>Navi Mumbai</td>
<td>Powai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Song</td>
<td>Kalyan</td>
<td>Powai</td>
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<tr>
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**Seniors**

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<td>Mime</td>
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<td>Powai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Movie Making</td>
<td>Navi Mumbai</td>
<td>Powai</td>
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</table>

**CHILDREN THOSE WHO ARE COMPLETED THE CHRISTMAS PLANNER ACTIVITY**

**Infant Jesus Church - Tilaknagar**

Angela Bijoy

**St. Josephs Church, Powai**

Daniel Anil

**Amala Matha Church, Mulund**

Sherlyn Shaji

**Christ The King Church, Bhandup**

Christopher Thomas

**St. Mary's Church, Malad (E)**

J oel Varghese

J ustin J erald

**Sacred Heart Church, Goregaon (W)**

J enitta Biju

Abigail Vipin

J insu Biju

Gabriel Bijoy

**St. Thomas Church, Dapodi, Pune**

Annmaria J ose Konnoor

J esna J ose Konnoor

**St. Alphonsa Church, Pen**

Josna Mariam J oy

Ashlin Ann Alexander

Aleen Francis

**Sanjos Church, Wagle Estate**

Emin Manoj

Melvin Joseph

**St. George Forane Church, Panvel**

Kevin Siby

Merin Rose George

Saniya Sojan

J oval J ohn Binoy

**Congratulations**
TALENTIA 2018-19

DIOCESE of KALYAN witnessed the unveiling of marvelous talents of her own youth for Talentia 2018-19, which was held on 13th January, at St. Thomas Cathedral Church, Kalyan West. The aim was to encourage different talents and thus 4 new events like KEY Play, Giphy, Once upon a time.. and Scene Contra were brought into the frame along with all time successful events like Breakthru, Debate, Blank Canvas and Open Mic Challenge, setting the benchmark higher than ever before. The mega cultural event which saw a gathering of more than 1000 youth, witnessed ordinary youngsters transforming themselves into artists, actors, dancers, singers, poets, beat boxers, mimicry artists and much more. Vicar General of our diocese, Msgr. Emmanuel Kadankavil, who blessed the event with his presence, proudly gave away the prizes to the winners of the respective categories and appreciated the efforts of Kalyan Eparchy Youth. The event thus turned out to be a cultural warfare in its true sense.
Prizes were Sponsored By
AKBAR TRAVELS OF INDIA PVT. LTD., MUMBAI

Portion for the next year – 1 Samuel & St. Mark
"I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in me will live, even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Husband & Children: Joshi Puthoore, Maria, Savio (Bhandup)
Parents: K.M. Raphael & Annie (Powai)
Sisters: Seeba (Powai) & Betsy (Bhandup)
Brother-in-law: Paul Thekkuden, Benny Koola
Nephew & Niece: Eric, Alex, Ashlyn
Brother-in-law & Family: David, Meena, Martin (Mulund)
Sister-in-law & Family: Sheeba, Shameju, Austin, Elwyn (Bhandup)

DEEPA JOSHI PUTHOORE
Heavenly Abode: 24-2-2017

"And now these three remain; Faith, Hope & Love. But the greatest of these is Love."
1 Cor. 13:13

With lots of love & prayers
Daughters, Son-in-laws & Grand Children:
Seeba, Paul, Eric (Powai)
Late Deepa, Joshi, Maria, Savio (Bhandup)
Betsy, Benny, Alex, Ashlyn (Bhandup)

Raphael & Annie (Kalathilparambil)
Konangaden House
15/02/1969

St. Joseph Church, Powai
25th Death Anniversary

Those we love don’t go away
They walk beside us everyday
Unseen, unheard, but always near;
Still loved, still missed, and very dear

Deeply missed and fondly remembered by:

K O Jose
Leena, Reena, Sijo
Joyson, Prince, Rita
Amelia, Joanna, Alyssa, Rebecca

Gracy Jose

September 21, 1953 - February 5, 1994

A/205, Prashant Apartments, Opp. IIT Main Gate,
Powai, Mumbai. Tel: 022 - 25771295

1st Death Anniversary

Dad, we are blessed to get a husband, a father like you and it’s a gift of joy to be besides you as you were welcomed by Jesus Christ, not a single moment goes without we remembering you. As the Bible verse in St Paul's first Letter to the Thessalonians says “When we think about you” We always thank God and continually mention you in our prayers.
We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
We firmly believe what Jesus Christ said “I will take you to myself, so that where I am, you also may be”.

Fondly Remembered by

Wife: Mary Franco
Son: Franklin Pananchery
Daughter in Law: Jeeja Franklin
Grandson: Aaron
Daughter: Femy Sayoj
Son in Law: Sayoj Pelliserry
Grand daughter & Son: Abigail & Abner

Franco Paul Pananchery
DOB: 04.10.1946 – Died: 13.02.2018
Fair / 32 / 5.1 / 56 / B.Sc. + HR Course / Presently working as HR Officer / Settled in Mumbai / Parents from Cherupuzha, Payyanur / 9867153873 / 8369258751 / 9833121136 / ajjosephhm@gmail.com
GOC201849097

Fair, 26 / 5.4 / 52 / B.Com. / Presently working as Accountant / Parents from TCR / 9152736891 / 8898852188 / ricsyanthony@gmail.com
GOC201850981

Moderate Fair / 27 / 164 / 60 / B.Tech IT / working as Sr. Software Engineer in MNC, Pune / Parents from Kerala settled in Pune / 9822391716 / 7743801549 / jmeljin13@gmail.com
GOC201847368

Moderately Fair, 28 / 163 / 74 / MBA, 4 yrs. Bachelor's Degree in Fashion Designing from NIFT Bangalore / Jr. Executive Designer, Bangalore / Born and brought up in Bahrain / Parents still in Bahrain / jthudyan@gmail.com
GOC201953566

Medium Fair, 25 / 158 / 54 / MBBS, B/B in Mumbai. Preparing for PG / Parents from Thrissur / 022-2555 7054 / 9969085582 / ptvincent@gmail.com
GOC201953689

Fair / 31 / 152 / 55 / M.Com. + PGDBA / Presently working in Accounts Department / Parents from TCR / 022-28196887 / 9967819393 / Divorced
GOC201851533

Fair / 30 / 172 / 85 / Diploma in Mechanical / Diploma in Mechanical & Awaiting B.Tech Results / Working with Marine Service / Parents from Chenganacherry / 9773551675 / svraytrio@gmail.com
GOC201953671

SMRC Mumbai based - Fair, 34 / 5.4 / 65 / Hotel Management / Presently working in Dubai / Parents from TCR / 9619889640 / 9769335989 / jeevan_7bom@yahoo.com
GOC201848436

Fair / 24 / 167 / 58 / MBA in agri business management from VAMNICOM / working as Branch operations Manager / Parents from Kottayam / 8130174974 / 8329561673 / jissmariajose1@gmail.com
GOC201953453

Fair / 27 / 163 / H.Sc, ECCED / Presently working as Preprimary Teacher / Parents from TCR / 9820723035 / 7738452092 / nikithanambadan@gmail.com
GOC201848694

SMRC Girl / Fair, 27 / 166 / 56 / BE Comp. Sc. / working in an US MNC in Powai, Mumbai / as IT Consultant / Parents from TCR / Settled in Mumbai / seeks Proposals / 9702660926 / 9702661926 / jajo367@yahoo.com
GOC201745607

Moderate Fair, 25 / 155 / 60 / MBA in Digital Marketing / Presently Working as Accounts Manager / Parents from TCR / 022-66950359 / 9870360175 / jacob_georgek@hotmail.com
GOC201953631

Moderate, Fair, 25 / 155 / 60 / MBA in Digital Marketing / Presently Working as Accounts Manager / Parents from TCR / 022-66950359 / 9870360175 / jacob_georgek@hotmail.com
GOC201953631

Doctor Girl / MBBS, 28 / 5.2 / 56 / Medium Fair, final year PG in Emergency Medicine. Looking for Medico pursuing or completed PG/Qualified other Professionals. Parents from Pathanamthitta / 8779281729 / hshk8548@gmail.com
GOC201953784

RC, 37 / 5.8 / 70 / MBA Finance / Bank Manager / Own 3 BHK Flat / Parents from Trichur / seeks alliance from any Christian Middle Class / Tel.: 022 - 25212992 / 9920272850 / sandeepantony16@yahoo.co.uk
GOC201953684

Wheatish 31 / 173 / 70 / Bachelors in Economics / Presently Working in UBS / Parents from Ernakulam / Thrissur / 9769661331 / agnel_512@yahoo.com
GOC201853143

THANKSGIVING TO ST. JUDE
Jisha Jaison — Kalyan (W)
Shija Binish — Kalyan (W)

THANKSGIVING TO ST. ALPHONSA
Alphonsa Sebastian — Vasai (W)
In loving memory of our beloved Pappa
On his 10th death anniversary

As we look back over time we wonder... Did we thank you enough for all you have done for us? For all the times you were by our sides To help and support us in our successes To understand our problems and accept our defeats. For teaching us by example, the value of hard work and integrity Or for the sacrifices you made to let us have the very best. And for all the laughter, smiles and times we shared. If we have forgotten to show our gratitude for all the things you did, We are thanking you now and hoping you knew; How much you meant to us.

A tribute of love from

Wife
: Omana

Sons
: Ruffin, Renoy, Renison

Daughters-in-law: Smitha, Sherin, Betsy

Grandchildren: Kevin & Melvin,
Iris & Grace, Rhea & Ryan.

Family & Friends

Mr. AUGUSTINE JOSEPH CHERUTHURUTHY
Birth: 11-04-1942
Demise: 16-02-2009

C-202, Panchratna Mahal,
Manpada Road, Dombivli (E)
Dear faithful,

The Feast of St. Alphonsa our Patroness, will be celebrated from 1st to 10th February, 2019. All are cordially invited to participate in the celebrations and receive spiritual blessings of the Almighty in abundance of this blissful occasion through intercession of St. Alphonsa.

Rev. Fr. Shaji Parickappallil  
Rector

K. M. Baby & Biju Mathew  
Trustees

C. V. Jose  
Convener

February 1st, Friday
- 7.00pm: Flag hoisting, Litany, Holy Qurbana, Message and Novena
  Main Celebrant: Msgr. Emmanuel Kadankavil (Vicar General, Diocese of Kolhapur)
  Intention: Nation and Leaders

February 2nd, Saturday
- 7.00pm: Litany, Message, Holy Qurbana (Syro-Malankara Rite) and Novena
  Main Celebrant: Bishop Thomas Mar Anthonius OCR (Vicar General of St. Thomas Church, Pune)
  Intention: World Peace

February 3rd, Sunday
- 7.30pm: Food Festival and Fun Fair

February 4th, Monday
- 7.00pm: Litany, Holy Qurbana, Message and Novena
  Main Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Baby Mulakkampilly (Vicar, St. Thomas Church, Pune)
  Intention: Financial prosperity & Two Wheeler Blessing

February 5th, Tuesday
- 7.00pm: Litany, Holy Qurbana, Message and Novena
  Main Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Santo Ennackal (Vicar, Holy Family Church, Pune)
  Intention: Priests of Pune Diocese & Four Wheeler Blessing

February 6th, Wednesday
- 7.00pm: Litany, Holy Qurbana, Message and Novena
  Main Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Simeon Kuttanthu (Vicar, Holy Family Church, Pune)
  Intention: Kaleswaram & Reina Mega Show

February 7th, Thursday
- 7.00pm: Litany, Holy Qurbana, Message and Novena
  Main Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Francis Kottanthu
  Intention: Parish Day

February 8th, Friday
- 7.00pm: Litany, Holy Qurbana, Message and Novena
  Main Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Francis Kottanthu
  Intention: Parish Fellowship

February 9th, Saturday
- 7.00pm: Litany, Message, Holy Qurbana (Munshi Mansa) and Novena
  Main Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Paul Painadathu MST (Vicar General, Diocese of Kolhapur)
  Intention: Sick and Senior Citizens & Bandhu

February 10th, Sunday
- 4.00pm: CHENDAMELAM
  Installation of President and Vice President
- 5.00pm: Solemn Holy Qurbana
  Main Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Justin Kallely (Chancellor, Diocese of Kolhapur)
  Intention: Family Sanctity & AGAPE (Fellowship Meal)
- 7.00pm: Holy Qurbana & Office of the Dead, Lowering of the flag
  Commemoration of the Departed Souls

NB: There will be provision to offer “Adima” during all Feast Days.
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