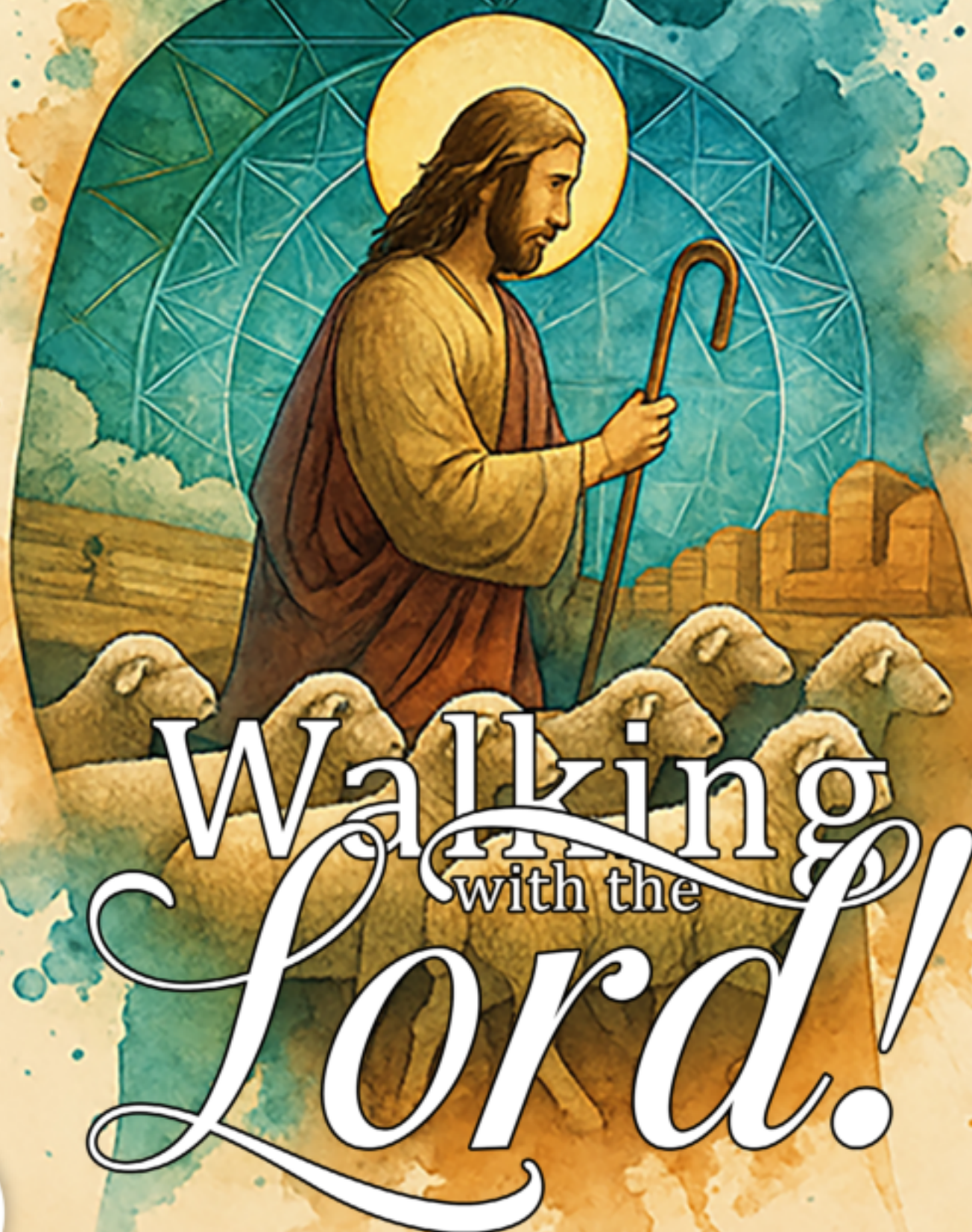




Pallotti Notes

"Vipul family of God moving towards a society where love and concern within the family and the neighbourhood is a way of life."



Walking
with the
Lora!



AUGUST 2025

“The earth will rest, justice will prevail, the poor will rejoice, and peace will return, once we no longer act as predators but as pilgrims. No longer each of us for ourselves, but walking alongside one another.”

Pope Leo XIV

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Pallotti Notes | August 2025

A triannual News Bulletin of St. Vincent Pallotti Church, Vijay Nagar, Marol Maroshi Rd, Andheri E, Mumbai 400059.

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Today, unlike in the past, we are not used to walking long distances. Now, walking is just one part of physical exercise. People walk either to lose weight or to keep their bodies healthy. Walking is a great example of how we should live our Christian lives, taking one step at a time, walking at a steady pace, and always heading in the right direction.

We might have heard of Enoch from the Old Testament. He was the father of Methuselah, the oldest man in the Bible, who lived to be 969 years old. But Enoch is remembered not just for his long life, but for walking faithfully with God for 365 years.

God has called us into a relationship with Himself and wants us to walk with Him through our daily lives. This means closeness, a kind of friendship, and a shared experience in the ups and downs of life in a broken world. Our life is a journey with God, following where He leads, and knowing His presence with every step we take. That is what He has called us to do during this Jubilee Year.

Since the commencement of the Jubilee Year, through the ceremony of the opening of the Church Door, every month starting from January 2025, various associations and cells have organized events that have enabled us to walk closely with the Lord.

- In February, a healing service by Fr. Zacharias through the Prayer Group in collaboration with SSVP.
- In March, a Eucharist for the intentions of women organized by the Women's Cell.
- In April, a session for youth, along with praise and worship, Eucharist, and fellowship.
- In May, a felicitation of church workers by the Ushers.

- In June, the movie King of Kings was screened by the Editorial team, giving the audience- children and adults, a fun-filled, theatre experience with snacks and beverages.
- In July, home-cooked meals were distributed by the SCCs to those in need.
- In August, a plastic drive, eco-friendly Mass, and a plant-growing initiative with children were organized by the Green Cell.

The circulation of the Jubilee Cross and community prayer has allowed the parish community to walk more deeply with the Lord.

Taking inspiration from the Jubilee Year activities in our parish, this edition of Pallotti Notes specifically highlights the theme of walking with the Lord in every part of our lives. It begins with the Eucharist as the starting point of our journey, guiding us to undertake pilgrimages, both physical and spiritual, to renew our faith and bring hope to the world in the face of suffering caused by war, poverty, and the climate crisis.

Fr. Andrew Roshan Alva
Editor

Some years ago, a mountain-climbing guide in the Himalayas was once asked by a journalist, *"What's your most important job when you're leading someone to the summit?"* He replied, *"It's not just to lead. My real task is to walk beside them, especially when they're tired or scared, so they don't give up before they reach the top."* That response, though simple, struck me deeply. Isn't that what Mary does for us in our Christian journey? She walks with us, and before us, showing us how to stay close to Jesus, even when the path gets steep, uncertain, or painful.

In the coming days, as we celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we rejoice not just in her birth but in the life that she lived - a life of constant accompaniment with her Son, Jesus. From the Annunciation to the Ascension, Mary journeyed with the Lord in quiet trust. She didn't walk on rose petals or enjoy an easy path. She walked on rocky roads, faced misunderstandings, endured exile, and ultimately stood at the foot of the Cross, all because she believed in God's plan more than her own comfort.

Mary teaches us that walking with the Lord doesn't always mean having all the answers. At the Annunciation, she didn't understand everything Gabriel told her. But she said "Yes". At Cana, she didn't know how the water would turn into wine. But she trusted Him. At Calvary, she didn't ask "Why?", she simply stayed. This is the kind of faith that doesn't demand explanations but relies on relationship. She knew Jesus, she loved Him, and that was enough to walk with Him through every season of life.

We live in a world that constantly demands

certainty - in career, health, finance, and even faith. But life with God is often a walk through a fog with only the next step visible. Like Mary, we are called to move forward even when the road is unclear, trusting that the One who walks with us knows the way.

I see this walk happening among us - parents raising children in a challenging culture, youth trying to hold on to their faith amid distractions, elderly enduring illness with grace, volunteers serving tirelessly without recognition. These are the quiet, everyday 'yesses' that echo Mary's own response. These are the walks with the Lord that build the Kingdom.

Mary shows us it's possible to walk with the Lord without a roadmap, as long as we hold His hand, and hers. As we mark her Nativity, let us recommit ourselves to journeying with Jesus, through both the sunshine and the storm. And when the road gets hard, let us remember that Mary walks beside us - gently, silently, powerfully - pointing the way forward with the quiet wisdom of one who has been there.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, walk with us and help us walk with your Son, through every valley and over every mountain. Amen.

Fr. Victor Martis, SAC
Parish Priest

The Jubilee Year invites us all to be Pilgrims of Hope. As pilgrims we are to keep moving. As we move, we need to ask one question to ourselves. Am I walking with the Lord? Or away from the Lord? Hope is a necessary virtue if we must keep walking with the Lord in faith. Pope Benedict XVI, in his Encyclical Letter 'Spe Salvi' (Saved in Hope) highlights how Hope as a theological virtue supports the theological virtue of faith. He says that in the Bible sometimes Faith and Hope are interchangeable. Quoting Letter to the Hebrews 11:1, *"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"*. Faith therefore is, standing firm in what one hopes for; being convinced of what one does not yet see.

Hope isn't just a wishful thinking. It is a game-changer. It changes everything. The future breaks into the present with hope. Pope Benedict XVI calls hope as a 'Performative Virtue'. Hope doesn't merely inform but it transforms a person. He writes thus, *"The dark door of time, of the future has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; he has been granted the gift of New Life"*. The fear of the future disappears in a person who lives by hope. Hope draws the future into present. It gives meaning and purpose to the present, confident that life will not end in emptiness.

We have an example of faith inspired by hope in the very person of Abraham. God promised to make Abraham a great nation. If you analyse the situation of Abraham, we can understand what hope can do to us. He was asked to leave his familiar home and make a journey (pilgrim) towards the land he never

knew. He didn't know what was going to happen to him or how he was going to turn into a great nation. All he had was the great hope in God who will bless him with descendants like the sand of the shore. When he began his journey, he could not see anything. In fact, he was living in a condition he never wanted. He had no son of his own and no place to call his own. He had to migrate to the country which he didn't know anything of. All he had was God's promise for the future. He put his hope in God and set out to walk with the Lord much before everything started to show up. That's what hope can do. It can impact the decisions we make, the relationships we nurture, and the way we confront the uncertainties of life. Hope helped Abraham to continue to walk with the Lord in faith.

When we choose hope, we choose life. When we choose hope, we choose God himself. We will choose to persevere in faith and shape our decisions in a better manner. A hopeful person will continue to walk the path of righteousness because he knows one day he will join Christ himself. The person who hopes in the goodness of others will continue to be kind and loving. Is there such a hope in me too? Can I keep walking with the Lord in faith, despite all the hurdles I face? The answer lies in HOPE.

Fr. Balraj, SAC

Women's Cell

- **14 Jun** - Organized a day out for the women of our Parish at Vasai. Around 50 women attended this fun filled outing.
- **26 Jul** – Organised a visit to Little Sisters of the Poor, Mahakali on the Feast of St. Joachim and Anne. The team along with Fr. Andrew organised a game of Housie and sang songs for the elderly.

Altar servers

- **15 Jun** - Welcomed new members to the association
- **13 Jul** - Organised water games 'Monsoon Masti' for the Altar Servers
- **20 Jul** - Organised Paper Drive
- **10 Aug** - Attended the Faith Formation for Altar Servers at deanery level on the theme Walking as Children of Light.

Inter Religious Dialogue Cell

- **24 Jul** – Organised a session on Inter Religious Dialogue & It's Importance Today. The talk was given by Fr. S. M. Michael (SVD) was attended by 17 members.

Senior Citizens

- **20 Jul** - 23 senior citizens attended the senior citizen meet organised by the Andheri East Deanery in our Parish.
- **26 Jul** – Organised a Holy Eucharist followed by a fellowship gathering on the Feast of St. Joaquim & Anne (Grandparents Day). It was attended by 24 members.

Bible Cell

- **06 Jul** – Organised Bible Quiz which saw participation from 14 communities in the junior category and 12 in the senior category. The event featured exciting rounds, including a visual round.
- **11 and 18 Jul** – Organised two sessions by Fr. Mario Mendes introducing the Pentateuch and the opening chapters of Genesis

Vinpal Charismatic Prayer Group

- **May** – Organised talks on topics such as From Fear to Faith – the Post Resurrection story, the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testament, the Holy Spirit power to witness and evangelise. Every Saturday, the Intercessors met weekly to pray for the Pentecost Triduum, with Vigils and Jericho March Intercession.
- **05 to 07 Jun** - Organised a Pentecost Triduum conducted by Fr. Mathew, Fr. Dibin and Tabor Team. The triduum was well attended. The recordings of the Pentecost Triduum are available in our parish YouTube channel.
- **Jun to Jul** - Organised a 6-talk series titled Growth in the Spirit Seminar. The talks were

given by renowned speakers of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Mumbai and eminent priests of the Archdiocese of Mumbai. The talks were attended by many parishioners and parish associations.

- **Upcoming**

- **Aug** – Including the anointing of the Holy Spirit along with testimonies

Choir

- **01 Jun** – Organised an evening of Praise and Worship for choir members to seek the divine guidance of the Chief Musician. This was followed by the 38 members taking vows reaffirming their commitment to the association.
- **29 Jun** - Celebrated the Feast of San Joao over a potluck dinner, games and music. It was attended by 36 choir members.
- **13 Jul** – Attended a session on the significance and importance of the Liturgy. The session was conducted a member of the Liturgy group, Jennifer Chavan, and was attended by 28 choir members.

Legion Of Mary

- **May** – During the month of Rosary, the Legionaries led the congregation in praying the Rosary daily at the Grotto. Legionaries also interacted with parishioners before the Rosary, encouraging them to join various Church associations.
- **12 May** – Organised a Thanksgiving Mass in honor of Edel Quinn, the Venerable Servant of God and Legion Envoy to East Africa. After Mass, members distributed leaflets to parishioners encouraging prayers for her beatification.
- **07 Jun** - Held a Chain of Prayer for the intentions of Frank Duff, the Founder of the Legion of Mary.
- **28 Jun** - Visited the Home for the Aged in Mahakali on their annual feast and organised games for the residents.
- **Jun to Jul** - Contacted families to speak about the Enthronement of Sacred Heart in the home.
- **Jun to Aug** – Conducting a 2-hour English-speaking session for the children of Angel Nest and a member is teaching the marginalized.
- **Upcoming**
 - **17 Aug** – Recollection on the theme ‘Walking with Mother Mary’ will be held for Legion members

Society of St. Vincent De Paul (SSVP)

- **May** – Assisted members of SSVP adopted families & other needy families in hospital admissions, post operative care and funeral arrangements
- **Jun to Jul** - Paid School/College Fees of 30 Students from SSVP adopted families & other needy families.
- **Jul** – Helped the adopted families with house repair works
- **Upcoming**
 - **17 Aug** – 13 SSVP Conferences from Vile Parle, Andheri & Jogeshwari will be having a prayer service, meeting & fellowship in Holy Family Church Hall.

Sunday School

- **14 Jun** – Attended a session for Catechists by Fr. Reuben Tellis on “Trinity – A Catechetical Source.”
- **15 Jun** – Sunday School reopened with 282 students registering for the catechetical year 2025–26.
- **6 Jul** – 16 catechists attended the Catechist Deanery Recollection hosted at Holy Family Parish on the theme of the Jubilee Year (Old Testament).
- **27 Jul** – Performed a musical for the Parents’ Day celebration.
- **27 Jul** – Organized an Essay Writing Competition in commemoration of the Jubilee Year for students of Std 9th to 11th.
- **Upcoming**
 - **17 Aug** – Faith Celebration Day for students of Std 5th and 6th hosted by Holy Family Parish on the theme “Nicene Creed.”
 - **30 Aug** – Organizing the 9-day Novena in honour of our Blessed Virgin Mary on the theme “Be with us Mary along the way”

Green Cell

- **24 May** – Reliable Recyclers conducted a follow-up composting workshop for the church staff and Green Cell members.
- **Jun to Jul** – Cleaned and planted saplings in the garden patch opposite the Blessed Sacrament.
- **05 Jul** – Spread awareness among the parishioners and joined the Archdiocese’ protest of the cutting of 12000+ trees in Dongri.
- **Jul** – Started the Plastic Recyclathon awareness campaign and launched the unique and attractive plastic bin in the church premises.
- **14 Aug** – Organised an Eco-mass for this Jubilee year. Involved the catechism children by encouraging them to grow and nurture saplings at home and bring it as an offering for the Eco-mass.

Novena 2025

Theme – Be with us Mary, along the way

Date	Day	Offering
30-Aug	Saturday	Rice
31-Aug	Sunday	Dal
1-Sep	Monday	Money
2-Sep	Tuesday	Soap
3-Sep	Wednesday	Money
4-Sep	Thursday	Rice
5-Sep	Friday	Tea Powder
6-Sep	Saturday	Dal
7-Sep	Sunday	Cooking Oil



During the season of Lent, on the 5th of April 2025, I embarked on a transformative walking pilgrimage from Cross Maidan to Mount Mary's Basilica - an experience that was both daunting and moving. As a first-time pilgrim, I found myself grappling with nerves and self-doubt in the days leading up to this significant event. Would I be able to get through the eight-hour trek? Would I find the strength I needed? However, stepping into the bustling crowd of fellow pilgrims, I soon discovered that I was not alone in my journey.

The pilgrimage drew a remarkable crowd of 900-950 pilgrims, uniting people from all walks of life across Mumbai. It was heartening to witness spirited children as well as gentle elders, joining hands in faith. It felt as if the Lord himself was walking alongside us, guiding our steps and instilling strength in our hearts. The diversity of the pilgrims underscored the powerful communal spirit as we set out to express our devotion, feeling the palpable presence of Divine Love in every footfall.

As we walked with our Savior, the air was filled with the sounds of rosaries being recited, hymns, and heartfelt prayers. Many chose to walk barefoot, embodying a deep humility and connection to their faith. I noticed mothers cradling their infants while participating in this prayerful atmosphere. The beautifully adorned floats representing Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph added a visual splendor to the experience. Each float radiated love and hope through artistic expression. The 10-foot wooden cross carried by pilgrims symbolised sacrifice; its weight a reminder of our life struggles.

One of the most touching moments of this

journey was when people of various faiths gathered to offer water and refreshments, exemplifying the spirit of compassion that transcends religious boundaries. Their generosity reminded me of the universal values of kindness and community, leaving a deep impact on me.

As the hours passed and fatigue & doubt set in, my faith and the devotion of fellow pilgrims kept me going. We were part of something much larger than ourselves - a journey of spiritual growth and solidarity. When we arrived at the Mount, a beautiful mass awaited us, wrapping up our pilgrimage with a profound sense of completion. The serene and solemn atmosphere allowed everyone to process the physical and spiritual efforts made that night. It was a moment of coming together, of celebrating not just the conclusion of our walk, but also the deep spiritual connections formed along the way.

As I reflect on this pilgrimage, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the decision I took, the people I met, the strength I discovered within myself, and the unyielding faith of my fellow pilgrims. This experience has etched itself in my heart - a reminder that our journeys, no matter how challenging, are enriched by the bonds we share in faith and the compassion we extend to one another as we walk with the Lord.

Joshua Fonseca
Zone - Rose of Sharon

St. Teresa of Avila beautifully outlines what it truly means to bring Jesus to the world: *“Christ has no body on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out to the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless others now.”*

Jesus offered His Body and Blood for us out of profound love. He acted then, and continues to act now, through His living presence in the Holy Eucharist.

We, the baptized, like the apostles, are called to be like Jesus and continue His mission in the world. Though unworthy, Jesus entrusts us with great responsibility to bring Him to those in need as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs). In carrying Jesus, we help unite the baptized with His Body and Blood.

“The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life” (CCC 1324). Distributing Holy Communion is not simply a matter of logistics; it is a sacred responsibility. As Pope Francis beautifully reminds us, “The Eucharist is not a prize for the perfect, but nourishment for the weak.” As EMHCs, we bear that nourishment, carrying Christ to those who need Him most.

This is a ministry of presence and compassion. When EMHCs visit the sick and homebound, we not only bring the Body of Christ, but also His love, His healing, and the gentle presence of the Church. For those who are lonely or suffering, this visit may be the only connection to the parish community. A smile, a kind word, a short prayer, even our simple

presence can become a sacrament of love. It is not our worthiness that makes Extraordinary Ministers, but the pure love and calling of the Lord.

Serving as an EMHC is a profound ministry, one that not only facilitates the reception of the Eucharist but also enriches the communal and spiritual life of the Church. This sacred role calls for reverence, understanding, and a deep commitment to the Church’s mission: to be a servant to the community, bringing Christ’s love and presence to those in need - “The Eucharist commits us to the poor” (CCC 1397).

Each of us is on a mission, but we cannot give to others what we do not possess ourselves. The more Christ lives in us, as St. Paul says in Galatians 2:20, the more we can radiate His presence to those around us. In doing so, we become His hands that bless, His feet that go forth in service, and His eyes that look upon the world with compassion, truly bringing Christ to others through our very being.

Anita Martis

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion





EUCHARIST - NOURISHED FOR THE JOURNEY

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1324) describes the Eucharist as *“the source and summit of the Christian life.”* This profound statement reveals that everything in our Christian journey flows from the Eucharist and ultimately leads us back to it.

The Eucharist is the highest form of worship because in the Eucharist, we encounter the real presence of Jesus Christ His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Through the mystery of Transubstantiation, the bread and wine are no longer mere symbols but become Christ Himself. In the Eucharistic celebration, we are united with the one, eternal sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross made present on the altar. No other prayer or devotion, however beautiful or meaningful, can compare to this sacred mystery.

Other forms of prayer adoration, the Rosary, novenas, praise and worship are all powerful and grace filled. But they draw their strength from the Eucharist. The Mass is where heaven touches earth, where the sacrifice of Calvary is re-presented, and where the faithful receive the very life of God into their bodies and souls.

Life is often described as a journey filled with joys, struggles, questions, and moments of grace. Along this path, we seek direction, strength, and companionship. For a Catholic, the Eucharist is not just a ritual or symbol, it is a profound encounter with Jesus Christ that nourishes, strengthens, and sustains us on this journey.

The Eucharist offers healing. Life brings us wounds both visible and hidden. Through the Eucharist, Jesus touches these areas of brokenness. He offers us forgiveness, comfort,

and the grace to begin again. Even when we feel weak or undeserving, the Eucharist reassures that God’s mercy is greater than any failure.

In moments of decision or uncertainty, the Eucharist becomes a source of wisdom. Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, dwells within us. His presence helps us to discern what is right and to act with courage. He reminds us to love, to forgive, and to serve. Through this sacrament, we are transformed bit by bit to be more like Him.

The Eucharist also unites us with the wider Christian community. As we gather around the altar, we are joined not just with the people beside us, but with the whole Church past, present, and future. We become one Body in Christ. This shared communion strengthens our sense of belonging, and calls us to care for one another, especially the poor, the suffering, and the forgotten.

Finally, the Eucharist is a foretaste of Heaven. In every Mass, a glimpse of the eternal banquet is prepared for us. This gives us hope. No matter how tiring the journey becomes, we are reminded that our final destination is not in this world, but in eternal communion with God.

In conclusion, the Eucharist is our spiritual food, our strength, our healing, our guide, and hope. It sustains us daily and reminds us that Christ walks with us every step of the way.

With the Eucharist in my heart, I do not journey alone..... I JOURNEY WITH JESUS

Shalen D’mello

Zone - Our Lady of Lourdes Community



WALKING WITH THE LORD & WORKING FOR THE LORD

When we talk about walking with the Lord, one incredible moment in the Gospel which stands out as an inspiration for the Usher's Ministry is when Simon of Cyrene stepped in to help Jesus carry his cross. That incident perfectly captures what we, as ushers, aim to do for the parish community. The ushers are here to lend a hand and help the faithful to walk with the Lord.

The ushers are some of the first friendly faces people see when they arrive for a mass. We love greeting all parishioners with a warm smile, helping them find that perfect parking spot, or guiding them to a comfy seat where they can feel at peace. It's a genuine privilege for us to help all parishioners feel comfortable and supported as they grow in their faith journey. We work in the background keeping a watch and assisting everyone to have a joyful celebration of the Eucharist. But our role goes beyond just pointing the way. As ushers we see ourselves as serving a spiritual role by creating a welcoming atmosphere where the faithful can truly connect with God.

The Usher's Ministry is called to be of service to everyone – inside and outside the church. Our commitment to serving the Lord and our community doesn't stop at the church doors. We're very passionate about getting involved in social activities that allow us to spread God's love and help others around us. It's all part of how we live out our faith every day. Over the last few months, we visited the priests at Vinayalaya and on 01st May as part of the World Workers Day, we felicitated the workers in our parish.

We, the ushers, are grateful for the opportunity to serve and support our community. We pray

that our efforts will reflect God's love and hospitality as we assist people walking with the Lord.

Ushers Ministry





IN UNITY WITH CHRIST

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20

This powerful verse captures the very heart of our Small Christian Communities (SCCs). It reminds us that we are not meant to walk through life alone. Christ promises His presence whenever we come together in faith through our SCCs.

Our parish is blessed with 29 SCCs, each made up of smaller clusters led by dedicated animators. Together, we strive to help one another grow in faith and ensure no one is left behind. These communities become spaces where we discover hidden talents, build meaningful friendships, support one another in difficult times, and celebrate victories together. In a world that often feels isolating, SCCs are true oases of love and belonging.

As part of the Jubilee Year, the month of July was dedicated to renewing and strengthening our Small Christian Communities (SCCs). The mission statement of our parish community *“Vinpal family of God moving towards a society where love and concern within the family and the neighbourhood is a way of life”* guided our efforts during this time.

In response to this call, our SCCs undertook a heartfelt initiative: to feed the hungry and care for the forgotten. Each Sunday, seven SCCs came together in home kitchens across the parish. With the same love and care they would show when cooking for their own families, they prepared nourishing meals. These meals were then thoughtfully packed and distributed to people in need throughout our local streets.

We distributed more than 1000 packed meals.

But more than numbers, it was the human connection, the smiles, the gratitude that stayed with us. This was faith in action: a living, tangible expression of God’s love.

Service is only one part of our SCC mission. At its core, each community is a spiritual family. We gather regularly in prayer, reflect on Scripture, and open our homes and hearts to the Lord. We share our struggles and hope, listen with compassion, and grow in trust. In doing so, we become instruments of encouragement and healing for one another.

Within our SCCs, we create sacred spaces, where God speaks, where patience and faithfulness take root, and where thanksgiving becomes second nature.

When we live in this way, praying, sharing, serving, our SCCs become a true Blessing. Each animated cluster, every food parcel, and each heartfelt conversation is a small step in building a community of hope, resilience, and love. This is what it means to walk with the Lord: not alone, but step by step, heart to heart, with others at our side.

As we continue to journey through this Jubilee of Hope, may its light shine brightly in every SCC, every household, every heart. Let us continue to listen, to serve, to grow, united in purpose and grounded in Christ. Together, may we walk with the Lord, build each other up, and reflect His love in every corner of our parish.

Precilla Rebello
SCC Steering Committee

Associations **IN ACTION**



I am a big fan of the tennis player Novak Djokovic. Former World No. 1 and Olympic gold medalist, he is one of my idols. Having achieved every accolade in tennis, I sense that he is close to retirement. So, at the start of the year, I made it my mission to see him play in person. In this quest, I travelled to a tournament in Doha but could not see him as he lost in the first round. So, when he announced that he would be playing the Italian Open in Rome I thought *Hmmmm, I've never been to Rome, let's go*. And then it struck me – it's the Jubilee Year!!! What a blessing it would be to visit Vatican City and walk through the Holy Doors. Thus began my unlikely pilgrimage to Rome - to see God and Djokovic.

On my first day in Rome, I headed to Vatican City to walk through the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica. As I passed through the Vatican Grottoes, I saw the tombs of past Popes and the tomb of St. Peter. It was a surreal experience. But nothing, absolutely nothing, could prepare me for the beauty I was about to witness. As I stepped into the Basilica, my jaw dropped (literally). There, right in front me, was the Altar of the Chair of St. Peter – regal, and yet so profound in its simplicity. I couldn't believe I was there, I couldn't believe what I was seeing. Now as I write about its beauty, words fail me. But I can describe the emotion I felt. I felt Love. I suddenly realized that God brought me here to experience His love in all its glory. Standing under those high gold ceilings and having walked through the Holy Door with hundreds of other faithful, I was humbled.

The subsequent days I visited three other Holy Doors – the *Basilica of St. Mary Major*, where Pope Francis now rests; the *Basilica of St. Paul*

outside the Walls, which houses the grave of St. Paul and finally the *Cathedral of St. John Lateran* which is the world's only Archbasilica. I also visited the church of *St. Paul at the Three Fountains* where St. Paul was beheaded and I climbed the *Scala Santa (Holy Stairs)* which is the staircase that Jesus climbed to Pilate's praetorium. So much history; so overwhelming to even think that I got to walk the same paths of the saints and apostles I had only read about. I was also blessed to witness the historic moment of Pope Leo's inaugural mass with millions of faithful gathered in St. Peter's square.

The highlight of my trip, however, had to be visiting our Patron Saint, St. Vincent Pallotti. Amidst the grandeur of Rome, our Patron Saint lies in the small church of *San Salvatore in Onda*. My joy knew no bounds when I finally got to meet the one that I have been praying to since childhood

You may wonder, how was the tennis match? It was *Bellissimo*. But unfortunately, I didn't get to see Djokovic as he pulled out of the tournament. I guess he was just God's way of bringing me to Rome in this Jubilee Year. Even though I did not see Djokovic, I saw God - in kind shopkeepers, fascinating locals and friendly strangers. It was my first solo trip, but I was not alone. God walked with me every day. It may sound cliché, but I felt the hand of God protecting and guiding me throughout my journey. And I've come to realize that while I love Djokovic enough to travel to different cities, I love God more.

Vinita Rodrigues

Zone – St. Peter



SUNDAY SCHOOL ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

Sunday School organized an Essay Writing Competition for Std 9 to Std 10 and Std 11 on 27 July 2025. Following are the winning essays under each category

Walking with the Lord

Sianne Rodrigues, Std 9

Ever since we were little kids, we have heard people telling us to walk with the Lord and feel His love which is everlasting. How do we walk with the Lord when we can't even see Him?

Of course He is there, although you can't see Him. He is by your side no matter what. He walks with you every step of your way even when you don't realize it. He walks with you in the wind; He walks with you in rain; He walks with you all the way to Calvary where He died for you.

A month ago, I went to this camp called 'Rise Up'. It was a three-day camp for the youth from ages thirteen to twenty. In that camp, we had adoration. During the adoration, the heads of the groups called us one by one, made us sit on the chair and prayed over us for all our problems to vanish. I had never felt that the Lord is actually with me at all times because He might be busy with the amount of people in this world who He has to look after. I never thought Jesus actually had time for me but that day I could feel Him standing beside me and this is when I realized He has always been there for me.

Ever since that experience I have started to make myself aware that Yes! God walks with me. It's not only just walking for the sake of it though. Imagine you are walking on the road during the rainy season. There is a rain storm, a lot of lightning in the sky but you don't get hit by lightning. How is it that you do not get hurt? God doesn't just walk with us; He gives us experiences of his love. God protects us from all harm and evil. He has given us the power to '*trample lions and snakes, fierce lions and poisonous snakes*'. No harm shall come to us. '*He will keep you safe from all hidden dangers. He will cover you with his wings*'. It is sad that God walks with us in our good times and bad times but the only place we went walking with Him was Calvary to crucify Him.

God is with us even now. Open your eyes, feel His presence, let Him guide you. When you help someone in need, make a sad person laugh, try and resolve small conflicts & misunderstandings and create fellowship among the people, then you my friend are '*Walking with the Lord*'.

My Vision and Involvement for Community Service in Church

Leon Vellakat, Confirmation

St. Vincent Pallotti parish, is one which is deeply rooted in faithful values and is very strongly held together by the love of God and our love for each other. To be a part of this is a great honour not only because of its Christian values but also because of the various communities which have been formed to do good and God's will to others.

This is exactly what a church should be, not just praying for ourselves, but lending a hand and reaching out to those in need. I would like to contribute as well to this community and make a significant impact.

As a youth, this is the best time to use our capability in the right way. I would love to help in organizing youth events and outreach programs specifically hosted by the youth of my parish to help others. The youth of our church have great potential and, if used well, can be a catalyst for bringing people to the church. A lot of our youth are rebellious and sometimes get into bad company. If we host praise and worship sessions or prayer meetings with a little bit of fun activities and social events, it will help attract the youth and get them back to the church, as well as help them be more rooted in their faith in Jesus.

We as the youth have been blessed with so many gifts in our lives. If a few friends of mine and I can go out of our way and join the communities in our church, it would be a blessing to others. There are many slums in our locality, and many people who struggle and suffer daily because of poverty. I can join communities like the Legion of Mary and the SCCs in their outreach to these neighbourhood slums to help them with both financial and spiritual resources to help them get back on their feet.

When we as a church help the needy with their houses, family, financial problems or medical problems, we not only make them feel loved, but also lead them closer to Jesus. We can then encourage them towards the spiritual way of life in Christ - the way, the truth, and the life. We can ask Him for help and prayers. Helping others selflessly in the name of God shows them God's love through us, which will also bring us closer to Him.

In addition, mental health is something which has gone unnoticed for many years and has affected many people, especially our youth. If, with the help of the communities in our church, I can organise a mental health association in our church, run by a group of people who are willing to talk to anyone who needs someone to talk to, whether online or in person, it would be the best. This should ideally be run by youth, because only people of a similar age group can relate to everything the other person feels and support them.

These are a few contributions I would love to make to my community to make this entire world a better place.

1. Since the start of the Jubilee year, I keep hearing 2 words - Indulgences and Penance. Can you explain what it means and the difference between the two?

Yes, these are the buzz words of the year aren't they. Let me try to break it down for you.

When we go for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we receive forgiveness, and we are asked to do some Penance to express our repentance. Once a sin is forgiven, the eternal punishment (separation from God) is removed. However, the temporal punishment remains which is the damage that our sin has caused either to oneself, others, or our relationship with God. The soul needs to be purified of temporal punishment before entering Heaven. Penance can help reduce or eliminate temporal punishment, but it may not fully repair the harm or bring full healing, especially for serious or repeated wrongs.

This is where **Indulgences** come in. They are meant to remit the remaining temporal punishment. They don't forgive sin, but they are a spiritual benefit granted by the Church to help complete the purification process. Imagine you broke a neighbour's window -

- You apologize and are forgiven - that's confession
- But the window still needs to be fixed - that's temporal punishment
- You start fixing it - that's penance
- Someone helps you finish the repair - that's an indulgence. The Church helps complete the healing process.

Indulgences can be plenary or partial. A plenary indulgence removes all temporal punishment, so no further cleansing is needed in Purgatory. A partial indulgence removes only part of the punishment. Indulgences can be received at any time, provided you detach from sin, receive the sacrament of reconciliation and Holy communion and pray for the intentions of the Pope. However, during a Jubilee Year, the Church offers special opportunities to gain indulgences like walking through a Holy Door, making pilgrimages, or doing acts of charity.

2. I can't visit the Holy Doors in Rome, how do I participate in the Jubilee Year pilgrimage in Mumbai?

How nice it would be if we all could go to Rome for this Jubilee Year to gain a plenary indulgence. However, don't be disheartened that you cannot. The Archbishop of Mumbai has designated certain pilgrimage churches in Mumbai and Catholics can gain a plenary indulgence by making a pious pilgrimage to those churches. They are -

- The Cathedral of the Holy Name, Fort
- Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount, Bandra
- Our Lady of Vailankanni Shrine, Bhate-Bunder, Uttan
- Our Lady of Fatima Church, Karjat

To get into the spirit of the year, there are the Jubilee Crosses which are being circulated around the churches, and we have one in our church as well. This Cross is passed on to families to emphasize the message of hope, courage and transformative action rooted in faith, love and a vision of peace. Do take the opportunity to get the Jubilee Cross at your home and spend some time in prayer together with your family.

Holy Doors of Mercy and Forgiveness



Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

L	I	S	I	F	A	V	O	R	A	F	B	C	I	D
U	N	T	B	L	I	Q	U	A	T	U	E	A	I	T
L	O	R	E	L	S	E	C	T	E	M	D	I	B	O
N	U	L	L	A	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	Y
N	O	N	S	E	Q	S	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	N
J	O	S	E	P	H	E	S	E	M	O	T	H	E	R
L	A	A	R	E	M	O	L	E	R	S	I	T	E	R
S	U	N	I	N	E	N	D	R	D	T	A	T	V	E
I	T	G	I	M	E	S	S	I	A	H	S	M	O	D
T	I	E	N	S	E	E	U	G	A	B	R	I	E	L
J	A	L	Q	U	A	T	N	O	N	S	E	C	T	E
E	U	H	U	M	B	L	E	E	D	E	L	I	Q	U
S	R	I	T	E	U	F	E	U	G	A	I	T	V	U
U	A	O	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	T	E	R
S	U	M	I	N	E	N	D	R	E	T	A	T	V	E

ANGEL
BABY
BLESSED

ELIZABETH
FAVOR
GABRIEL

HUMBLE
JESUS
JOSEPH

MESSIAH
MOTHER
ZECHARIAH

BORN IN CHRIST

20/04/2025	Vincia	Unit 22, Aarey Colony
04/05/2025	Quinn Martin	A/302, Marol Hill View CHS, Military Road
24/05/2025	Anaira Chakalakal	15/4/B, Guru Gobind Singh Marg, Mulund
25/05/2025	Yoel D'costa	Ganesh Pada, Galli No. 7, Bamandayapada
22/06/2025	Stefan Dcosta	B/503, Park Royale, Military Road
17/07/2025	Jaziel Terence D'souza	A/4/606, Lok Yamuna CHS, Military Road
20/07/2025	Eva Vardhan	B/410, The Heights CHS Ltd, Marol Maroshi Road

MARRIAGES

25/05/2025	Nicanno & Aashiya	Walter Prasad House, Bhandarwada, Marol
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REST IN CHRIST

16/03/2025	Josephine D'souza	3/308, New Aakar CHS Ltd
17/03/2025	Lawrence Castelino	8/10, Blossom CHS, Military Road
20/03/2025	Mariano Vaz	10/6/3, Rock View Apts, Bhawani Nagar
15/04/2025	Pascol Rodrigues	17/2/4, Sterling CHS, Military Road
26/04/2025	Xavier D'souza	F/105, Lok Darshan CHS, Military Road
30/04/2025	Juliana Mascarenhas	Lt 10/2, Vijay Nagar
04/05/2025	Elizabeth Mascarenhas	Lt 18/22, Vijay Nagar
15/05/2025	Ovita Lewis	A/702, Neel Sarovar CHS Ltd, Military Road
17/05/2025	Leena Quadros	B/1502, Park Royale, Military Road
18/05/2025	Glenn Valladaris	B/6, Shankar Mahal, Sai Nagar
27/06/2025	Sunil Anil Chemburkar	H. No. 338, Unit 19, Aarey Colony
26/06/2025	Francis Arthur	A/6, Shankar Mahal, Marol Maroshi Road
10/07/2025	Joseph Lilly Francis	Aarey Colony, Main Pump House,
08/07/2025	Richard Sequeira	C/505, N. G. Complex
13/07/2025	Anthony Adrian Lobo	Lt 17/22, Vijay Nagar
31/07/2025	Rosa Francisca Fernandes	E/1/11, Pramukh CHS, Vijay Nagar
02/08/2025	Candoline D'souza	A/11, Shankar Mahal, Sai Nagar, Marol