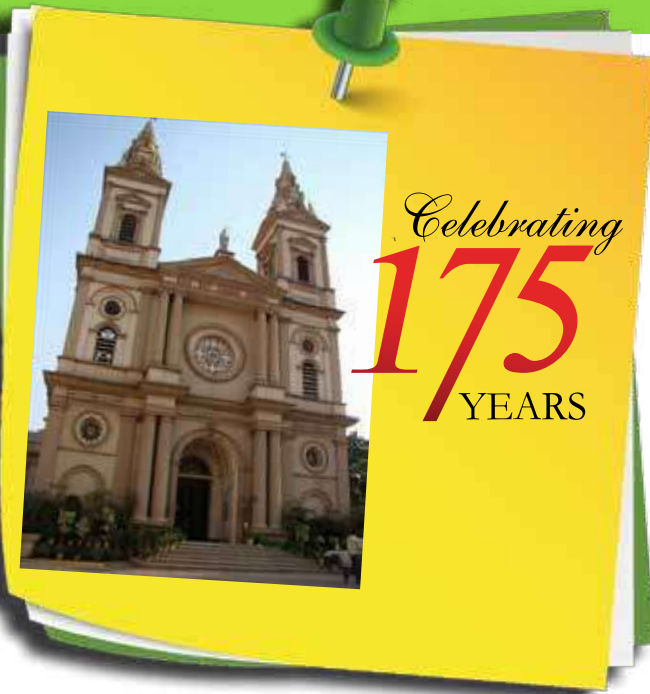


THE PATRICIAN

Speaking the Truth in Love (Eph 4:15)



February 2017



MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST

*“My heart sings tunes of thankfulness,
for I praise God in gratitude for His
numerous blessings”.*

There is very little that will create an overwhelming feeling of reverence, heart filled with gratitude – well, St. Patrick's Food Fest was one of those rare occasions. As I watched with humility and awe, the enthused, spirited parishioners taking part in the Food Fest, sharing and inspiring the younger generation with the community spirit that St. Patrick's Parish has grounded itself in for over a century and a half, my heart echoed “what have I done so deserving to be called to shepherd St. Patrick's Church?” These wonderful parishioners, with their formidable love for their parish – indeed gives a message “let us journey together” as we endeavour to keep the community spirit of this parish more vibrant. I thank you all for making the Food Fest a great and gala moment - *Merci Beaucoup!*

February 14th Valentine's Day—the only thing the world sees on this day is the price of roses sky rocketing and the gift shops flooded with the young and the old! But what does Valentine's Day really mean? I would not like to disconnect myself and go into primitive thought, but I would like to share a message of what Valentine's Day would mean to me! It is obvious that it is a synonym for Love; but what would that mean if I opened my heart to those who are closer to my circle of life—my parents, my brothers and sisters, my relatives, my close friends? So to whom does my gratitude go? To those who are a part of my emotional and spiritual growth? To those who are a part of my growth as an individual- making me stronger and grounded to survive in this competitive world? Yes, I would buy a gift for the people who are closer to my circle of life, and thank them and say to them “Indeed I love you for being a part of my life's growth.”

**Blood Donation Camp on Feb 26th
In view of the 175th Anniversary
celebrations of our Church, the Youth will
be organizing a Blood Donation Camp on
Sunday the 26th of February between 9am
and 1pm. Those of you who would like to
donate blood, kindly be available.**

Preparing for the Lenten season – “and yet even now” says the Lord, ‘return to me with all your heart.’

What are you giving up for Lent? This is a question that rings in our mind. **The real question is – how will I repent and return to God with all my heart? –Where in my life have I gone away**

from God? It is this season of Lent that kindles in us the spirit of prayer and fasting, repentance, forgiveness and being generous to the needy and poor. The season of lent is a reminder of our sinfulness. As we become aware of our sins, we repent and come closer to God, the Almighty, who sent His only Son Jesus to be our Redeemer, saving us from the world of denial and our actions that detach us from our faith in God and eventually spiritual disconnection.

As we approach Ash Wednesday, March 1st – let us all take some time to reflect – have I gone far away from God? What has distracted me from my relationship with God? Let us begin our Lenten journey by being true to our inner conscience, by repenting and pondering, and reflecting on the passion of Christ – “Jesus gave His life for our sins, so that we can come closer to God, the Almighty and create that relationship which we would never ever want to let go in our lives”.

Let us pray – God the Almighty, through your Son, Jesus Christ you gave us the eternal light for us to walk; let that Light be our guidance in the shadow of darkness; give us strength to shun the darkness of sin and be in your eternal light through Faith and Trust in your Son Jesus. Amen.

God Bless us all.

Msgr. C. Francis
Parish Priest

Vicar General - Archdiocese of Bangalore

EDITORIAL BOARD

Monsignor C. Francis

Ms. Rosaline Farias

Mr. Larry Furtado

PARISH EVENTS IN DECEMBER 2016



60 Years Diamond Anniversary of the Ladies of Charity

On December 8th, the Ladies of Charity celebrated 60 years of service in the Parish. The celebration began with evening thanksgiving Eucharist in which three new Members—Mrs. Shirley Job, Mrs. Doris Machado and Mrs. Shantha Wilson—were inducted. After the Eucharist, the members had a small get-together to which other associations of the parish were also invited. Msgr. C. Francis appreciated and thanked the Ladies of Charity for their selfless service rendered to the Parish. A game of Housie was played and followed by a light-hearted quiz conducted by Mrs. Rosaline Farias, after which the gathering shared a fellowship meal.

St. Patrick's Boys' Home Christmas celebration



On December 19th 2016, the children of St. Patrick's Boys' Home had their annual Christmas celebration co-sponsored by the Ladies of Charity. The boys put up an excellent entertainment programme that included a splendid Christmas dance, carol singing and an energetic Punjabi dance. The meritorious students of each class were honoured by Msgr. C. Francis and the Parish Clergy. The volunteers who help them with their studies, such as MAD (Make A Difference), Open Door, Bookwallahs, the counsellors, the doctors and the benefactors were present for the programme.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Get-together



On 21st of December 2016, a senior citizens' Christmas get-together was organized by the parish. About a hundred elderly of our parish gathered in the hall for the celebration. Msgr. C. Francis opened the function with a prayer and welcomed the senior citizens. Mrs. Cynthia Fernandez organized games and a quiz, followed by high tea. Each of the guests was presented with a Christmas gift. The programme closed with a Thanksgiving Eucharist at 5.45pm.

Lunch for the Less Privileged



To mark the 175th year celebration of our Parish Church as well as the Feast of the Holy Family, on the 30th of December, the Society of St. Vincent De Paul provided lunch for two hundred people

from the poorer sections of society. The event was organized in our Parish hall. The programme included the singing of Christmas carols and sharing of the Christmas message.

Crib Competition





The Parish Crib competition had 9 participants this year. The winners are:

- 1st Prize Mr. Ramesh of St. Antony's Zone
- 2nd Prize Mr. Clement of St. Antony's Zone
- 3rd Prize Shared by Ms. MaryAnn of St. Thomas Zone, Mr. Yohan of St. Francis Xavier Zone and Mr. Nathan of St. Peter's Zone.



Borewell Project at St. Theresapura
In view of the Year of Mercy, St. Patrick's Church financed the sinking of a bore well at Theresapura village near Sangam, about 100km from Bengaluru, to provide drinking water to the villagers. The Church had donated Rs. 1.95 lakh to the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Maria Louis, and the funds have been utilized for the digging of the bore well and other related electrical connections. We thank our Parishioners for their generosity in contributing to this Project.



IMPORTANT DAYS IN FEBRUARY

Feb 02: Thu	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
Feb 04: Sat	Feast of St. John de Britto
Feb 07: Tue	Memorial – St. Gonzalo Garcia
Feb 11: Sat	World day of the Sick
Feb 12: Sun	Holy Childhood Day
Feb 13: Mon	77 th Anniversary of the Erection of the Diocese of Bangalore
Feb 22: Wed	Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
Feb 25: Sat	20 th Anniversary of the Archbishop's Episcopal Ordination

OBITUARY
(16TH DEC 2016
TO
15TH JAN 2017)

30.12.2016
Alphonse Bernard D'souza
– St. Paul's Zone

11.01.2017
Alban John Salvatore – St. Peter's Zone

13.01.2017
L. A. P. Kamath
– St. Peter's 's Zone

MISSION SUNDAY – FUND RAISING DRIVE BY ST. PATRICK'S

St. Patrick's Church had a series of fund-raising events for three Sundays of January - starting from the 15th of January to the 29th of January - to help collect funds for the Missions. Besides a repeat of last year's successful Food Fest and Jumble Sale, this year the parish youth too jumped in and organized a Car-Wash to help add to the kitty. The collections will be sent to the Vatican, to the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The Food Fete on 15th January witnessed excellent participation from the parishioners, with families from every zone, and the religious congregations



- the Good Shepherd Sisters, Daughters of St. Paul, Brigittine Sisters, FSI Sisters, PDDM Sisters and the Satya Seva Sisters - contributing their mite through a variety of lip-smacking dishes. The spread included various preparations of pork, beef, mutton, chicken and fish, besides dosas, appams, idlis, vadas, burgers, rolls, momos, iddiappam, uthappam, upma and kesari bath and more. There was also on sale coffee, cold-drinks and juices to help wash down the food. And, to top it all, a dessert station which carried a variety



of cakes, cupcakes, brownies, tarts, cookies, biscuits, ladoos, guava cheese, pickles and more!

The Youth of the Parish had put up several game stalls and even the Altar Servers participated with a game stall of their own – plus with a stall for nail-art and tattoos. The sisters of the Good Shepherd Convent had a raffle and a lucky dip to add to the excitement.

Besides the food and games, there were also plants, rabbits, love-birds and pigeons for sale

all contributed by the parishioners, including the St. Patrick's Boys Home.

On the following Sunday, the 22nd of January, the Ladies of Charity organized a Jumble sale where



old books, clothes, household items and electronic gadgets contributed by the parishioners, were put on sale.

And on the 29th of January, the St. Patrick's Church Youth group joined with Yeshua Adonai Youth group, in a creative initiative of washing cars of all those who attended the Sunday Masses. About 70 volunteers dressed in green and white T-shirts gave their energy and time to wash the cars and bikes parked in the church premises and raised Rs. 50,000 for the missions. The drive was inaugurated by Rev.Fr.John Abraham, the Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese of Bangalore. Fr. John Abraham said the prayers and gave his car for wash and was the first one to pay for the service. Several of those who had their cars washed got into the spirit of the event and either lent a hand or contributed more than the price of the service, as they wanted to do their bit for the Missions.

Mission Sunday helps us to focus our efforts on raising funds to enable the Church take the Gospel to those places where it otherwise would not be thought possible, and especially for the care of Christian communities in need. On Mission Sunday we are invited to go out as missionary disciples, by generously offering our talents, creativity, wisdom and experience in order to bring the message of God's tenderness



and compassion to the entire human family. It was a pleasure to experience the over-whelming response and generosity of our parishioners – as volunteers, contributors and participants - to the different fund-raising initiatives to help the Church in this noble purpose.

-Sunil D'souza and Fr. Bala Francis Kumar

Coffee Table Book and Souvenir Committee

We are happy to report that good progress has been made in the last month and at present we have collected Rs. 11 Lakhs against our budget target of Rs. 18 Lakhs. We thank our parishioners and well-wishers for their generosity and feel confident that we shall achieve our target to cover the cost of printing 1000 copies of the Coffee Table Book as well as the Souvenir, both of which are being released at the closing ceremony of the 175th year of the glorious existence of St. Patrick's Church.

We have received some very special and precious photographs – a wedding in the 1920's and a military choir in 1945. We welcome your contribution of such old photographs that we will scan and return with thanks, to make our Coffee Table Book and Souvenir

most interesting. Please hand over such photographs to Rev Fr. Bala Francis, our Asst. Parish Priest.

Yes, together we are doing well now and thank you once again.

- Msgr. C. Francis and Gregory de Nazareth



OUR LADY OF LOURDES



“Can you please tell me who you are? I beg you, my Lady.” “I am the Immaculate Conception” responded the Holy Virgin, Queen of Heaven and Earth.

The apparition of our Lady took place in Lourdes, a small town in France, in the year 1858 to a fourteen-year old peasant girl called Bernadette Soubirous. On 11 February 1858, young Bernadette along with her sister and friend went to look for wood at the meadows. She was in front of the grotto of Massabielle, a dirty, damp and cold place, called the pig shelter. As Bernadette glanced towards the grotto, she noticed the cave was suddenly filled with a golden light. Lifting up her eyes she saw a lady of great beauty, dressed in a pure white robe with a girdle at her waist, a blue ribbon flowed down and a white veil over her head gave just a glimpse of her hair, a rosary clasped in her hand and yellow roses at her feet. The lady signalled Bernadette to advance forward. The Holy Virgin made the sign of the cross, prayed the rosary with Bernadette and vanished.

The Holy Virgin requested Bernadette to be present at the grotto every day for 15 consecutive days. Our Lady of Lourdes had a message for her children. At the start, Bernadette was invited to open her heart to the message of love. She slowly realized the purpose of all poverty, which she and her family experienced. They resembled Jesus, who came as a poor man, to mingle among the poor of spirit. This is the first message of Lourdes. The disgusting mud of the pigsty symbolized penance. Bernadette, with her face smeared by the mud, became a symbol of deep

love that led Jesus to his passion. She invites us to see the true nature of sin and observe the ugliness of evil. Tasting the bitter grass in the Grotto, she courageously sought penance and conversion of sinners. Bernadette suffered disdain of the crowd, as they misunderstood her actions and lost faith in her. But every action of hers was a message for us from the mother of God. At the ninth apparition, Mary asked Bernadette to scrape the ground, saying to her “go to the spring, drink of it, and wash yourself there”. The spring signifies the cleansing of the human heart wounded by sin, yet healed through prayers and penance. Our Lady stressed on penance and prayer for the conversion of sinners. During the thirteen apparitions, our Lady said to Bernadette, “go tell the priest to come in a procession and build a chapel here”. Our Lady’s request was granted. To sum up, Our Lady’s message was very clear - penance, humility, mercy for the sinners, compassion for the sick and conversion. Our lady told Bernadette that the important thing was to be happy in the next life. To attain it, we must accept the cross of this life. In the Gospel Jesus says “He who wishes to be my disciple, let him take up the cross and follow me”.

Life was not easy for Bernadette during and after the 18 apparitions. In July 1860, she moved into a Hospice in Lourdes and later joined the convent of our Ladies of Charity. Though she suffered poor health, she was always found radiant and happy.

As I conclude, in Bernadette’s own words “To obey is to love, suffering in silence for Christ is joy! To love sincerely is to give everything, above all suffering”.

-Tina Fernandez

St. Patrick’s Church

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Sunday: 9am to 12.15pm

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