

The **FRONTIERS**

SVD India Mumbai Province News

SEPTEMBER 2026

*Where
Hands Meet,
Hope Begins*



A Mission of Compassion • Dignity • Transformation



**“Rooted in the love of the
Father and led by the Spirit
into the Mission of Christ” - INM Vision**



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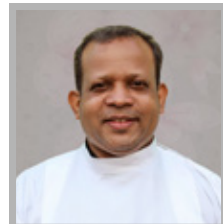
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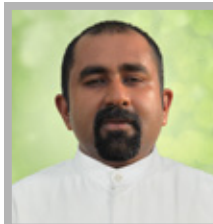
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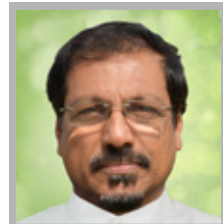
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Editorial

Where Hands Meet, Hope Begins

Dear friends,

A handshake is a simple gesture. Yet, it has the power to communicate what words often cannot. It speaks of welcome, trust, friendship, and hope. The cover of this edition of **The Frontiers** captures one such moment—a child reaching out with innocence, and a missionary, (Fr. Anselmo Ricardo Ribeiro SVD, Superior General) responding with warmth and compassion. Between those two hands lies the essence of our missionary calling.

Every day, across the world, Divine Word Missionaries encounter people whose lives are marked by uncertainty, struggle, and longing. Whether in classrooms, hospitals, villages, parishes, social centres, or among migrants and the marginalized, our mission begins not with programmes or projects, but with presence. It begins with listening, accompanying, and extending a hand that reassures another person: "You are valued. You are loved. You are not alone."

As we celebrate 8th September, the birthday of the **Society of the Divine Word**, we remember the courageous dream of **St. Arnold Janssen**. He believed that God's Word must reach every person, especially those on the peripheries. More than 150 years later, that vision continues to inspire thousands of missionaries

and collaborators who cross boundaries of language, culture, and circumstance to proclaim the Gospel through lives of humble service.

The stories in this issue reflect that living mission. They are stories of children discovering new opportunities, families finding hope, communities growing stronger, and ordinary people becoming extraordinary witnesses of God's love. They remind us that mission is not measured by the size of our achievements, but by the depth of our compassion and the sincerity of our encounter.

The child on our cover may one day forget this brief exchange, but the kindness experienced in that moment can leave a lasting imprint. Such encounters are at the heart of every missionary journey. They remind us that lasting transformation often begins with a simple act of human connection.

May this edition of **The Frontiers** inspire each of us to become people who extend a hand in friendship, stand beside those in need, and carry the light of Christ wherever we are called to serve.

For wherever hands meet with love, hope is born—and the mission of the Divine Word continues.



Fr. Jolly M., SVD
Editor in Chief – INM Province
Society of the Divine Word



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INM Silver Jubilee Message from the Provincial

Illumined by the Word, Radiating Hope to the World

A Silver Jubilee is more than a celebration of twenty-five years. It is a grace-filled moment to remember, give thanks, discern and renew. As the India Mumbai Province (INM) begins its Silver Jubilee on 8 September 2026, we gratefully acknowledge God's faithfulness and proclaim with the Psalmist: **"The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced"** (Psalm 126:3).

Our Jubilee invites us to celebrate our missionary roots. The year 1963 marks the origin of our Province, while 2002 marks its canonical establishment as a Province of the Society of the Divine Word. We stand on the foundations laid by those who went before us and are entrusted with carrying their missionary legacy forward.

Our Province Vision, **"Rooted in the Love of the Father, led by the Holy Spirit into the Mission of Christ,"** reminds us of who we are and to whom we are sent. Our Jubilee theme, **"Illumined by the Word, Radiating Hope to the World,"** calls us to allow the Word of God to guide our lives, strengthen our mission and make us signs of hope in a world marked by suffering, inequality, migration, violence and ecological challenges.

The call of Micah—**"To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God"** (Micah 6:8)—challenges us to encounter Christ among the poor and marginalized, migrants, young people, families and all those searching for dignity, meaning and belonging. Our Jubilee celebration must therefore lead to renewed missionary commitment.

We gratefully remember our pioneers and all our confreres, lay collaborators, benefactors, alumni and friends who have contributed to the growth of our Province. As St. Paul reminds us, **"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth"** (1 Corinthians 3:6).

As we look to the future, may the Spirit lead us towards new frontiers and inspire us to be courageous, creative and compassionate missionaries. May this Jubilee deepen our fraternity, renew our vocation and strengthen our commitment to the mission of Christ.

As we look back with gratitude and forward with hope, let us trust the Lord's promise: **"See, I am making all things new"** (Revelation 21:5).



Fr. Tomy Thomas, SVD
Provincial – INM Province
Society of the Divine Word



SVD ORDINATIONS 2026 - *Congratulations*



Fr. Ebin Ouseph Venad SVD, Appointed to India Mumbai Province (INM)

Fr. Ebin Ouseph Venad SVD of the India Mumbai Province (INM) was ordained to the priesthood on 16 April 2026 at St. Joseph's Church, Koduppunna, alongside his cousin, Fr. Mino Varghese Venad SVD. The ordination was conferred by His Grace Mar Thomas Tharayil, Archbishop of Changanacherry, in the presence of Fr. Tomy Thomas SVD, SVD confreres, clergy, religious, and a large gathering of the faithful. His motto was **"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" (Lk 1:46-47).**



Fr. Mino Varghese Venad SVD, appointed to Chad Mission, Africa (TCD)

Fr. Mino Varghese Venad SVD (TCD) was ordained to the priesthood on 16 April 2026 by His Grace Mar Thomas Tharayil, Archbishop of Changanacherry, at St. Joseph's Church, Koduppunna, Kerala. Inspired by the motto, **"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" (Lk 1:46-47)**, he has been assigned to the Chad Province (TCD). We wish him God's abundant blessings in his missionary ministry.



Fr. Jesbin Thomas SVD, appointed to India Guwahati Region (ING)

Fr. Jesbin Thomas SVD (ING) was ordained to the priesthood on 8 April 2026 by His Grace Mar Joseph Pamplany, Archbishop of Thalassery, at St. George Church, Kanjiradukkam. Inspired by the theme, **"Fearless in Search, Merciful in Rescue, Joyful in Return, a Shepherd like Christ,"** he has been assigned to the ING Region. We wish him God's abundant blessings in his missionary priestly ministry.



Fr. Joseph Mari F. SVD, appointed to India Guwahati Region (ING)

Fr. Joseph Mari F. SVD (ING) was ordained to the priesthood on 18 April 2026 by Most Rev. Francis Serrao, S.J., Bishop of Mysore, at St. Teresa of Calcutta Church, Rajiv Nagar, Mysore. Inspired by the motto, **"Ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20)**, he has been assigned to the ING Region and will serve in Bandardewa, Arunachal Pradesh. We wish him God's abundant blessings in his missionary ministry.



Fr. George Britto SVD, appointed to India East Province (INE)

Fr. George Britto SVD (INE) was ordained to the priesthood on 8 May 2026 by His Grace Dr. Amalraj Arulappan, Bishop of Ooty, at Our Lady of Presentation Church, Maria Mangalam, Karnataka. Inspired by the motto, **"I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last" (Jn 15:16)**, he has been assigned to the India Eastern Province (INE). We wish him God's abundant blessings in his missionary ministry.



Fr. Ajith Joy Kadakuzhiyil SVD, appointed to Zimbabwe Province (ZIM)

Fr. Ajith Joy Kadakuzhiyil SVD (ZIM) was ordained to the priesthood on 10 April 2026 by Archbishop Joseph Pamplany at St. Mary's Church, Pachani, in the Archdiocese of Thalassery. Inspired by the motto, **"My Grace Is Sufficient for You" (2 Cor. 12:9)**, he has been assigned to the Zimbabwe Province (ZIM). We wish him God's abundant blessings in his missionary ministry.



Fr. Ashish K. Mathew SVD, appointed to China Province (SIN)

Fr. Ashish K. Mathew SVD (SIN) was ordained to the priesthood on 13 April 2026 by His Grace Mar Joseph Pamplany, Archbishop of Thalassery, at St. Thomas Forane Church, Thomapuram, Kasaragod, Kerala. Inspired by the motto, **"To do everything for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31)**, he has been assigned to the SIN Province. We wish him God's abundant blessings in his missionary ministry.



Fr. Naveen Rebello Elevated To The Rank Of Reader



We are happy to inform that Fr. Naveen Rebello, SVD, has been promoted to the rank of Reader in the Faculty of Theology at Jnana Deepa Institute of Philosophy and Theology, Pune, with effect from 1 August 2026. Fr. Naveen has been recognised for his excellent academic qualifications, his dedicated service as a teacher and mentor, and his valuable contributions to the academic life of the institution through his presentations and scholarly publications. We extend our hearty congratulations to Fr. Naveen on this significant achievement and wish him God's continued blessings in his ministry of teaching, research, and formation.

All Lay Partners Groups National Workshop

The Second National Workshop for SVD Lay Partners of the India Subzone was held at Atma Darshan, Mumbai, from February 27 to March 2, 2026, organized by Fr. Luis Ronald Pereira SVD, National Mission Secretary. The theme was "SVD Lay Partners as Missionaries of Hope". The workshop was inaugurated during the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Tomy Thomas SVD, Provincial Superior of the India-Mumbai Province. Fr. Marcelo Cabaneo SVD, General Mission Secretary, delivered the keynote address on missionary identity. Sessions were conducted on the identity, spirituality, mission, and role of SVD lay partners, including topics such as triple identity and ministry, lay partnership in the biblical vision, Arnoldus spirituality, and the role of lay partners in mission today. Six sessions were conducted in total.



The workshop had 51 participants, including 33 lay partner representatives from different provinces and regions, four spiritual directors, five mission secretaries of the India Subzone, and three SSps representatives. Partner groups presented reports on their activities, strengths, and challenges. Five lay partners gave personal testimonies about their experience in lay partnership. Evaluation sessions were also conducted.

Feast of the Divine Word at DCC MULKI, Mangalore

Feast of the Divine Word was celebrated with great devotion, prayerful fervour, and solemnity at the Divine Call Retreat Centre, Mulki. More than 600 devotees participated in various programmes organised on the occasion, including the Jesus Youth Retreat, Deliverance Retreat, and Prayer Convention.

Rev. Dr. Alfred Vincent Sequeira, in his inspiring reflection, spoke about the **two tables of worship from which God nourishes His faithful: the Eucharistic Table and the Table of the Divine Word**. The participants listened to his preaching with great enthusiasm and experienced the joy and power of God's Word.

Three individuals were honoured on the occasion for their remarkable dedication to Sacred Scripture. Ms. Helen Lobo was honoured for handwriting the entire Holy Bible in just 11 months. Ms. Eugene D'Cunha was recognised for handwriting the entire New Testament, while Ms. Emilda Martis was honoured for her ability to recite 40 Psalms and numerous Bible verses from memory.



Another significant highlight of the celebration was the purchase of **40 new Bibles**, made possible with the encouragement and guidance of the Province Bible Coordinator, Fr. Mathew Kavukatt. His support and guidance contributed greatly to the successful celebration.

The Feast of the Divine Word thus became a meaningful celebration of faith, Scripture, prayer, and the Eucharist, inspiring all those present to deepen their love for the Word of God



Zeitler Memorial Lecture: Mission In India's Pluralistic Context

As part of the closing celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of Ishvani Kendra, His Eminence Anthony Cardinal Poola delivered the Zeitler Memorial Lecture in the presence of Fr. Tomy Thomas, INM Provincial Superior. Reflecting on the Church's mission in India's pluralistic context, he emphasized that mission flows from God's love and is expressed through dialogue, service, justice, peacebuilding, and compassionate witness. Drawing on Vatican II, recent papal teachings, and the Synod on Synodality, he highlighted communion, interreligious harmony, inculturation, and synodal participation, calling the Church to witness to Christ through love, solidarity, education, and care for the marginalized.



Welcome To The New EIPS (Exposure Immersion Programme)

We welcome Frt. Abin Joseph and Frt. Sujit Toppo to the INM Province. We wish them a fruitful, joyful, and enriching experience that deepens their vocation and strengthens their commitment to the Lord's call.

EIP is a programme for seminarians that exposes them to the realities of mission in India



Frt. Sujit Toppo



Frt. Abin Joseph

Chotanagpur Football Tournament at Bandra (UCDC)

The Chotanagpur Football Tournament was held on 15 February 2026 by St. Arnold Sports Club under the banner of the Urban Community Development Centre (UCDC). The event brought together Chotanagpur migrant youth from across Mumbai, promoting unity, friendship, and sportsmanship.

Twenty teams participated in the tournament. The programme began with a prayer and welcome by Fr. Cosmos Ekka, SVD, Program Coordinator of UCDC. The event was graced by Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, Fr. Shinoy, SVD, Fr. Jerome, SVD, and Fr. Amit Kujur, SJ, whose presence encouraged the players.

After a day of exciting matches, St. Theresa A Team won the championship, while the Chaibasa Team finished as runners-up. More than a football tournament, the event strengthened community bonds and celebrated the vibrant culture of the Chotanagpur people in Mumbai.



A New Beacon of Hope: SVD-150 Jubilee Memorial Block Inaugurated at Pilathara, Kerala

The SVD-150 Jubilee Memorial Block at Vachana Jyothi De-Addiction Centre, Pilathara, was blessed and inaugurated on 17 January 2026, marking a significant milestone in the healing ministry of the India Mumbai Province. The new extension was built to provide improved facilities and meet the growing needs of people seeking freedom from alcohol and substance addiction.

The building was blessed by Mar Joseph Pamplany, Archbishop of Thalassery, and inaugurated by Fr. Tomy Thomas SVD, Provincial Superior of the India Mumbai Province. Mr. M. Vigin, MLA, unveiled the memorial plaque in the presence of SVD confreres, former inmates, and well-wishers.

Since its beginning in 2012, Vachana Jyothi has helped more than **4,000 families** rebuild their lives through its dedicated de-addiction ministry. The new Jubilee Memorial Block stands as a lasting symbol of the SVD's commitment to healing, hope, and the holistic well-being of individuals and families.



A Golden Legacy of the Word and Mission Golden Jubilee, Ishvani Kendra, Pune



With a solemn Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Anselmo Ricardo Ribeiro, SVD Superior General, and concelebrated by Fr. Tomy Thomas, SVD INM Provincial Superior, along with other Provincials, Regional and priests. Around 150 priests and 2300 faithful from the JD Campus and the parishes of the Poona Diocese participated in the celebration. The event was marked by gratitude to God for the gift of mission entrusted to Ishvani Kendra in service to the Church and society, locally and globally. The celebration concluded with a Biblical Musical Drama and Jubilee Dinner.



Final Vows and Diaconate Ordination, Divine Word Seminary, Pune

Divine Word Seminary, Pune, celebrated the **Perpetual Profession and Diaconate Ordination of nine SVD brothers** on 21-22 February 2026, marking two joyful milestones in their missionary journey. The celebrations were attended by SVD confreres, family members, benefactors, and friends.

The Final Vows Mass was presided over by Fr. Tomy Thomas, SVD, Provincial Superior of the India Mumbai Province, who encouraged the brothers to remain rooted in God's love, nourished by prayer, and guided by the Holy Spirit in their missionary service.

The Diaconate Ordination was celebrated by Bishop Chacko Thottumarickal, SVD, Bishop Emeritus of Indore, who called the new deacons to deepen their prayer life and faithfully proclaim the Gospel through lives of service and compassion.

The well-organized celebrations, led by Fr. Jesuraj Rayappan, SVD, Rector of the Seminary, were a grace-filled occasion, reaffirming the SVD's commitment to preparing missionaries for the service of the Church and the world.



Running for Peace, Racing with Hope by Sacred Heart Parish, Andheri

The third Sacred Heart Parish Peace Marathon was held on 1 March 2026 with the inspiring theme, **"Walking for Peace, Running with Hope."** Led by Rev. Fr. John Mascarenhas, SVD, Parish Priest, and supported by a dedicated team of volunteers, the event brought together nearly **1,000 participants** from the parish and four neighbouring parishes of the Andheri Deanery.

Open to all age groups, the marathon featured **1 km, 3 km, 5 km, and 7 km categories**. The day began with the ceremonial torch run, followed by a warm-up session and the races. Volunteers ensured participants' safety and hydration throughout the route, while every finisher received a commemorative medal and a healthy breakfast.

More than a sporting event, the marathon promoted **peace, healthy living, and community solidarity**. The proceeds will fund **cataract surgeries and wheelchairs** for financially disadvantaged senior citizens of the parish.

The event concluded with a lively Zumba session and the presentation of trophies, making the **Peace Marathon 2026** a memorable celebration of fitness, fellowship, and compassionate service.



Giving, Growing, Inspiring at SSS, Andheri (International Women's Day)

With the inspiring theme "Give to Gain," Sarva Seva Sangh and Asha Sadan Social Work Centres came together on 8 March 2026 to celebrate International Women's Day at the Gyan Ashram Campus. The gathering was a heartfelt tribute to the strength, resilience, and generosity of women, especially HIV/AIDS beneficiaries, widows, Self-Help Groups, and migrant workers.

The celebration blended inspiring messages with vibrant songs, dances, and cultural performances that reflected the many roles women play in building families and communities. More than 375 participants shared in the joy, fellowship, and appreciation of the day.

The event concluded with the distribution of meals and ration kits to beneficiaries, making the celebration not only a tribute to women but also a meaningful expression of care and solidarity. It was a beautiful reminder that every act of giving has the power to transform lives.



Convention of SVD Brothers Focuses on Building Hope



The National Convention of SVD Brothers was held from 12-14 January 2026 at Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda, Odisha, under the theme, "Called to be Pilgrims of Hope in the World: Building Hope in Today's Context." Twenty-seven Brothers from the SVD Provinces of INC, INE, INH, INM, and ING participated. The convention was organized by the National Coordination

Team led by Bro. Kishore Tigga, SVD, and hosted by the INH Province.

The gathering provided time for prayer, reflection, dialogue, and fraternity while focusing on the identity, vocation, and mission of SVD Brothers. Through keynote sessions and group discussions, participants explored how to become authentic witnesses

of hope and respond creatively to the changing needs of the Church and society.

The convention resolved to promote Brother vocations through personal witness, encourage professional specialization, strengthen community life, and foster greater collaboration among the provinces. It was also announced that the India Mumbai

(INM) Province will host the next National Convention in 2028.

The convention concluded with a renewed commitment to live the Brother's vocation with joy, fraternity, and missionary zeal, reaffirming the vital role of SVD Brothers in advancing the missionary charism of the Society of the Divine Word.



Building Vocations in Kerala

A new academic year began with hope and prayer at **St. John's Mission Seminary, Changanacherry**, on 15 June 2026, as Mar Thomas Tharayil inaugurated the year with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. With the seminary preparing for a major rebuilding project, the Archbishop reminded the seminarians that formation is shaped not only in classrooms but also through patiently embracing challenges. He encouraged them to deepen their friendship with Christ, grow in discipline and fraternity, and make the most of this privileged time of discernment. The celebration marked the beginning of another journey of faith, formation, and hope for the future priests of the Church.



Vocation Camp at SVD House, Kirem, Mangalore

St. Peter's Apostolic School, Kirem, organized a three-day Vocation Camp at SVD House, Kirem, from April 11 to 13, 2026, bringing together 51 boys from various parishes for a meaningful journey of faith and discernment.

The camp opened with a symbolic prayer service in which the participants offered incense, signifying their unity and openness



to God's call. Throughout the camp, the boys took part in interactive sessions on Christian values, vocation discernment, teamwork, and leadership. Prayer, Eucharistic celebrations, group discussions, and personal reflection helped deepen their spiritual lives.

Sports, outdoor activities, team-building exercises, and water games added fun and strengthened friendships among the participants. Evening campfires and shared meals fostered a spirit of community and belonging.



Witnessing to the WORD by DDW Bandra

3 Testimonies by DDW Bandra Lay Mission Partners at St. Theresa's Parish, Bandra



Life testimony by Anne Luis

I am Anne Luis, from Our Lady of Egypt Parish, Kalina, and an SVD Lay Mission Partner, a member of the Disciples of the Divine Word, Bandra. Today, I want to share with you, a small part of my journey and my understanding of Mission.

As far as I can remember, I have always had a love for God's Word and biblical stories. My reason for joining the Ministry of the Word, way back in the 90's was to learn if the Exodus story really happened. In the years to come, I would one day stand on the soil of Egypt, Jerusalem, by the Sea of Galilee, even enter the river Jordan, and then, the places and stories, would no longer be distant. But even to this day, at every Easter Vigil Mass, the words 'the horse and rider, fell into the sea' still thrills my heart.

Two years ago, I was blessed to spend nearly 3 weeks in Rome, where I had the opportunity to interact with the international family of the Society of the Divine Word (the SVDs), the clergy, Religious Brothers, the Religious Sisters, and the representatives of the SVD Lay Mission Partners from all over the world. All missionaries. All united by one mission – to proclaim the Word of God and serve people.

Their stories of pure joy in uplifting people, their challenges in mission areas, their vulnerabilities, witness and faithfulness

made me realise how vast is the canvas of God's mission. This experience helped me understand that Mission is not only for priests and religious; it is also for you and me, the laity. By our very baptism, we are invited to participate in God's Mission.

Visiting SVD Missions and encountering Missionaries inspires me to support their endeavour with greater zeal and commitment. And I pray, you do the same. If we are unable to travel to distant lands, we can still be missionaries in our own families, workplaces and communities by our prayer, service and love. And I encourage you to support Missionaries, on the wings of your prayer, provide for their needs, and reach out to them in love. Give in the measure you have received, and God will return to you, pressed down and overflowing.

Today, on Mission Sunday, I invite you to be Partners in God's mission, bringing hope, peace and God's healing love, to those in need.

By Anne Luis, Our Lady of Egypt, Kalina Parish



A Life Testimony – Munira Millwala

I would like to share a little of my journey of faith. At a certain point in my life, I

experienced Christ in a very personal and life-changing way. That encounter touched my heart deeply and awakened in me a desire to live my life more fully for God and for others.

Through this journey, I came to know the mission and spirituality of the Society of the Divine Word. The spirituality of St. Arnold Janssen, with its deep love for the Divine Word and its beautiful Trinitarian vision, spoke powerfully to my heart. I understood that the mission of God flows from the Holy Trinity—the love of the Father, revealed in Jesus the Divine Word, and guided by the Holy Spirit.

For a long time, I believed that the only way I could support the mission was by praying for missionaries and their work. But everything changed when I had the opportunity to visit the SVD mission in

Mangaon in Raigad district. Seeing the dedication of the missionaries and the people they serve, I realized that I could do much more than only praying.

Through the SVD Lay Mission Partners, I discovered that lay people like me can actively participate in God's mission—through service, involvement, and sharing hope with others. In my own small way, I now try to reach out to people around me, and I am able to bring some hope and joy to the lives of those I encounter.

Together with my sister, I commit myself to continue supporting the SVD mission through prayer, service, and witness. I thank God for this grace and pray that our lives may reflect the spirit of St. Arnold Janssen:

By Munira Millwala, Sacred Heart Parish, Santacruz



“ *The first and most important thing is the formation of the heart.*

- St. Arnold Janssen, SVD



Our Testimony as a family, SVD Mission Partners (Anthony and Cynthia)

My wife Cynthia and I feel truly grateful to God for the opportunity to be part of the SVD Lay Mission Partners. Through this journey, we discovered that mission is not only for priests and missionaries; it is also a calling for lay people like us.

One of the most meaningful experiences for us has been becoming spiritual parents to an

SVD seminarian. When we were invited to accompany a seminarian through prayer and support, we felt it was a beautiful way to participate in the mission of the Church. We may not go to distant mission lands, but through our prayers, encouragement, and care, we can support someone who is preparing to become a missionary.

Our spiritual son, Aaron Dias, was ordained in May 2022 and he had been appointed as a missionary priest to Congo where he has been serving as a missionary for three years.

We pray for him regularly, encourage him in his vocation, and walk with him as a family in faith. It has been a blessing for us as well, because it reminds us that every vocation is a gift from God and needs the support of the whole Christian community.

Through this experience, we have realized that mission truly belongs to all of us. By supporting vocations and praying for missionaries, we too can live the Word and give hope.

Anthony and Cynthia Fernandes, St. Theresa's Parish, Bandra

**CELEBRATING
TWO BIRTHDAYS,
ONE GREAT
MISSION**

*Happy SVD
Foundation Day
&
Happy Birthday,
Blessed Mother
Mary*



“ *Our seminarians must be formed to become true men of God and zealous missionaries.*

- St. Arnold Janssen, SVD

Arnold Seva Kendra (ASK) Goa Empowers Migrant Youth through Baking

Arnold Seva Kendra (ASK Goa) conducted a baking workshop for migrant youth at SVD Seminary, Raia, to promote skill development and self-employment.

Under the guidance of professional baker Anthony, participants learned to prepare cakes, breads, buns, and cookies while gaining practical knowledge of baking techniques, hygiene, and presentation.



Addressing the participants, Fr. Michael Pereira, SVD, highlighted the importance of skill-based training in empowering migrant youth and encouraging self-reliance. The workshop concluded with a tasting of the baked products, leaving the participants inspired to explore baking as a potential livelihood.

International Women's Day Celebrated at Kattipalla, Mangalore

The community of St. Mary's Convent, Kattipalla, Mangalore, celebrated International Women's Day 2026 with a Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Sushil Xess, SVD, offering prayers for women and for peace in the Middle East.

The highlight of the celebration was a special programme organized entirely by the men of the community to honour women and girls. In a touching gesture, they washed the women's hands, presented them with flowers, and gifted rosaries as symbols of love, gratitude, and respect.



The celebration concluded with messages of appreciation and fellowship, reaffirming the dignity, strength, and invaluable contribution of women in the Church, family, and society.



DDW Pune: Growing in Mission through Service and Fellowship

The months of April to June 2026 were enriching and inspiring for DDW Pune, as members grew in faith through service, missionary exposure, and fellowship.

On 18 April, eight members visited Walburga's Home for the Aged, spending time with the residents through prayer, songs, games, and conversation. Despite the sadness of learning that some residents had passed away, the visit brought comfort and joy. DDW Pune also donated ₹10,000 to support the home's ministry.

From 10 to 16 May, eleven members and three children participated in a mission exposure programme in Goa. They were inspired by Fr. Aaron Dias, SVD, who shared his missionary experiences in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and visited a migrant tribal settlement in Pernem, witnessing the Church's efforts to support marginalized families.

On 14 June, Rev. Fr. Thanuzraj Lazar SVD, assumed responsibility as the new Spiritual Director of DDW Pune. He reminded members that "Feed the Hungry" remains at the heart of the DDW mission, encouraging them to serve with compassion and commitment.

These experiences renewed the members' missionary spirit and strengthened their commitment to living the Gospel through loving service.



Summer Camp Brings Learning and Joy to 180 Children (Sarva Vikas Deep, Mangaon)

Sarva Vikas Deep, Mangaon, organized a two-day Summer Camp on 22-23 April 2026 for 180 children from the Mangaon block of Raigad district. The camp combined fun-filled activities, including games, sports, dance, and team-building exercises, with educational sessions on financial literacy, leadership, and responsible use of social media. Resource persons encouraged children to develop confidence, leadership skills, and digital awareness. A visit to Water World was the highlight of the programme, providing excitement and recreation. The camp concluded with children returning home enriched with new friendships, valuable life skills, and joyful memories.



A Symphony of Success at Gyan Ashram Music & Dance Academy



The students of Gyan Ashram Music & Dance Academy brought laurels to the Academy with their outstanding performance in the 2025-26 Indian and Western Music & Dance Examinations, reflecting their talent, dedication, and disciplined training.

The Indian Music and Dance Theory Examinations, conducted under the Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Miraj, were held on 16 November 2025 at St. Arnold's High School, while the practical examinations took place at Gyan Ashram Music & Dance Academy during November and December 2025. A total of 470 students appeared for the examinations, including 250 students from Gyan Ashram. The results were commendable, with 52 students securing Distinction, 138 obtaining First Class, 40 earning Second Class, and 20 passing the examinations.

The Academy also hosted the prestigious Trinity College London Music Examinations in Keyboard, Violin, Drums, and Guitar on 6, 9, and 11 February 2026. A total of 105 students appeared for these internationally recognised examinations conducted by examiners from Trinity College London. Among them, 39 students achieved Distinction, 52 earned Merit, and the remaining students successfully passed.

These exceptional results are a testament to the hard work of the students, the dedicated guidance of the faculty, and the unwavering support of parents.



Congratulations to all the achievers! May they continue to excel and inspire others through their passion for music and dance.



“The future of the Society depends to a great extent on the good formation of our seminarians.

- St. Arnold Janssen, SVD



Empowering Young Minds: INM Schools Celebrate Another Year of Excellence

INSTITUTION		HIGHEST SCORE	APPEARED	PASS	PERCENTAGE
St. Arnold's High School, Andheri	10th STD	98.00%	218	218	100.00%
St. Arnold's Junior College, Andheri	Commerce	87.17%	89	84	94.38%
	Science	69.67%	145	145	100.00%
St. Arnold's Degree College of Arts and Commerce, Andheri	TYBCOM	83.00%	60	49	81.60%
	TYBMS	79.50%	52	52	100.00%
	TYBAF	87.88%	51	48	94.11%
	TYBSc.IT	88.12%	44	44	100.00%
St. Theresa's High School, Bandra	Std. 10th	90.60%	171	171	100.00%
St. Arnold's Central School, Mysuru	Std 10th	98.00%	93	93	100.00%
St. Arnold's Central School, Pune	Std 10th	98.00%	161	161	100.00%
	Std 12th	Commerce			
		92.80%	31	31	100.00%
		Science			
		88.80%	89	87	97.70%
		Humanities			
		88.20%	10	10	100.00%
St. Arnold's Central School, Aduvassery	Std 10th	98.00%	33	33	100.00%
Sarva Seva Sangh, Pune	Std 10th	82.00%	22	21	
	Std 12th	89.00%	21	21	100.00%

DDW Andheri – A Season of Gratitude and New Beginnings

The past few months have been a time of thanksgiving, transition, and renewal for DDW Andheri as the community welcomed new leadership while expressing gratitude to those who served with dedication.

On 10 May 2026, DDW Andheri conducted its Core Group elections for the 2026–2029 term. Joyce was elected Treasurer, Anupama as Vice President, and Jayesh as President. The community gratefully acknowledged Fr. Tony and Fr. Gregory for conducting the elections with care and transparency.



Special appreciation was extended to Susan, the outgoing President, for her committed leadership and generous service. She will continue to coordinate the Feed the Hungry ministry, held every Saturday at Atma Darshan.

On 5 June, members bid farewell to Fr. Tony Menezes, Fr. Gregory Pinto, and Fr. Salvador Carvalho, thanking them for their inspiring



Fr. Raja Reddy, SVD,
Spiritual Director, DDW Addheri



Fr. Henry D'souza, SVD,
Director, Atmadarshan

spiritual guidance. The community also warmly welcomed Fr. Raja Reddy as the new Spiritual Director on 18 June and Fr. Henry as the new Director of Atma Darshan during the DDW meeting on 28 June.

With gratitude for the past and hope for the future, DDW Andheri looks forward to continuing its mission under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Nurturing Creation: Marcela, Holy Family Parish's Green Initiative

Holy Family Parish, Marcela, undertook a meaningful green initiative to promote environmental awareness and care for our common home.

On 5th July, the parish children planted saplings in pots and took them home to nurture, learning the importance of caring for creation. On the same day, the local MLA, Govind Gaude, distributed saplings / distributed plants to parishioners, encouraging every family to plant and care for them in their homes.

Continuing the initiative, on 26th July, the Parish Pastoral Council, together with Sarpanch Mr. Siddharth and members of the village panchayat, planted tree saplings along the roadside, contributing to a greener and healthier environment for the community.

Adding a creative touch to the celebrations, the parish also organized an ornamental pot decoration competition, with children and families enthusiastically decorating their plant pots.

Through these activities, Holy Family Parish reaffirmed its commitment to caring for God's creation. May these small acts inspire many more to protect our environment and make our world a better place to live.





SVD Seminary Raia Celebrates Parents' Meet with Tree Plantation Drive

RAIA, GOA – SVD Seminary Raia marked its annual Parents' Meet on 19 July 2026 with a tree plantation drive, reflecting the Church's call to care for creation. Parents and their sons planted a tree in the name of each seminarian, symbolizing their shared commitment to nurturing both future missionaries and the environment.

The programme began with a prayer led by Fr. Caetano Mascarenhas, SVD, farm in-charge and event coordinator. The initiative served as a practical expression of integral ecology, bringing families together in the shared mission of caring for God's creation.



Migrant Youth Football Tournament Unites Young People in Goa

RAIA, GOA – Arnold Seva Kendra (ASK) Goa, in collaboration with the Diocesan Youth Centre (DYC) Goa, organized the Migrant Youth Football Tournament at the SVD Seminary Grounds, Raia, bringing together migrant youth from across Goa for a day of sports, fellowship, and community building.

The tournament was inaugurated by Fr. Salvador Carvalho, SVD, Rector of SVD Seminary, who performed the ceremonial kick-off. Fr. Caetano Mascarenhas, SVD, and other priests were also present to encourage the participants.

The final saw Verna defeat Pomburpa 2-0, with goals from Patras Kandolna and Michael Pradan, to lift the Migrant Youth Football Trophy. Pomburpa finished as deserving runners-up after an impressive campaign.

The prize distribution was presided over by Fr. Blaise Lobo, Director of the Diocesan Youth Centre, Goa, who highlighted the role of sports in fostering unity, discipline, and friendship among young people. Fr. Michael Pereira, SVD, Animator of the Migrant Youth, proposed the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the SVD community, volunteers, officials, and all participating teams for making the event a success.

The tournament concluded on a joyful note, strengthening bonds among migrant youth and promoting the values of teamwork, faith, and healthy competition.



Empowering Families through Parenting, UCDC Bandra

The Urban Community Development Centre (UCDC), in collaboration with AMC, organized a Parents' Orientation Programme on 11 July 2026 for parents of children enrolled in its Crèche, Balwadi, and Tuition Classes.

The programme began with a prayer and welcome by Fr. Cosmos Ekka, SVD. The highlight was an engaging parenting session by Ms. Diana Gudino, a teacher and counselling psychologist, who shared practical insights on building loving relationships, effective communication, and creating a positive home environment for children's holistic development. She also reminded parents, especially mothers, of the importance of self-care in nurturing healthy families.

Fr. Mahipal emphasized the vital role of parents in shaping their children's future. The programme concluded with collaborative planning for the academic year, followed by fellowship over tea and biscuits.

UCDC gratefully acknowledges Archdiocesan Migrant Commission (AMC), Ms. Diana Gudino, and all the parents for making the programme a meaningful success.



Sarva Seva Sangh Pune (SSS) NCMC Camp Supports Vulnerable Families

Sarva Seva Sangh (SSS) organised an NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) Camp, benefiting 68 individuals—52 women from HIV-affected families and 16 children from street situations. The initiative enables beneficiaries to access affordable public transport for medical care, education, counselling, livelihood opportunities, and other essential services. By reducing travel expenses, the camp helps vulnerable families save their limited income for food, healthcare, and education, while promoting greater dignity, independence, and access to essential services.



“Formation must lead us to become true missionaries — people of holiness, prayer and service.

- St. Arnold Janssen, SVD



St. Theresa's, Bandra "Celebrating The Gift Of Grandparents"



St. Theresa's Parish celebrated Grandparents' Day, and the day of the Elderly on Sunday July 26, 2026. An open umbrella was offered during the Eucharistic celebration to symbolize how grandparents with their open mind and hearts, guide, nurture and protect the younger generation. The family cell of the parish had a short video presentation highlighting how children treasure their grandparents.

The Mass was followed by a get-together for the grandparents and elders. All the participants were in an exuberant mood and joyfully and enthusiastically participated in the games, conducted by the PPC committee. This was what one 92-year-old grandparent, Mrs Theresa Menezes had to say, "It was a thoughtful gesture that all the games were seated so as to not tire the elderly, standing or running around. There was Passing the Hat in two different directions, and all of us excitedly

avoided being the hatter and out of the game. A quiz followed, based on famous grandparents. Then we had a sing song session, with our famous old-time songs, like 'Daisy Daisy'; and the room was filled with joie de vivre. Anybody walking into the room would have mistaken us for a bunch of teenagers. Song sheets were distributed and everyone joined in, singing and clapping in glee, rhythmically to the tunes".

The get-together ended with the favourite game of the elders, the Housie, followed by prize distribution, and snacks. The presence of the Parish Priest along with the clergy team was much appreciated by the grandparents.



Congratulations and prayers for the new INM Provincial administration Team



GOLDEN HORIZONS

DDW Bandra And UCDC Brings Seniors Together

Golden Horizons opens a joyful new chapter of fellowship, fun and friendship

BANDRA, MUMBAI | 9 AUGUST 2026 – Laughter, music, games and warm conversations filled the UCDC Hall in Bandra as **DDW Bandra, in collaboration with UCDC Bandra, launched "Golden Horizons"**, a new initiative for people aged 50 and above.

The inaugural gathering was built around a simple yet powerful idea: **age is not a barrier to friendship, participation and joy.** It is, rather, a new horizon waiting to be explored.



The programme was graced by Rev. Fr. Tomy Thomas SVD, Provincial Superior of the INM Province, whose presence and words of encouragement added special significance to the occasion. His participation highlighted the importance of creating welcoming spaces where senior members of the community can feel valued, connected and actively involved.

Hosted with great energy by Mr. Joe Coutinho, the afternoon quickly came alive with music, interactive games and plenty of laughter. Participants enthusiastically joined in, breaking the ice, meeting new people and rediscovering the simple joy of being together.

More than an entertainment programme, **Golden Horizons seeks to address the growing need for meaningful social connection among older adults.** It offers a space where participants can share experiences, develop new friendships, discover interests and continue to contribute actively to community life.



Held at the UCDC Hall, 5th Floor, 14th Road, Bandra West, the inaugural gathering marked the beginning of a regular programme designed around friendship, fellowship, recreation and personal enrichment.

As the first afternoon drew to a close, the smiles and conversations spoke for themselves. **Golden Horizons had opened not merely a new programme, but a new chapter—one filled with friendship, belonging and possibilities.**

Golden Horizons: A space to connect. A space to belong. A space to celebrate life.





Bible Quiz

Book of Genesis

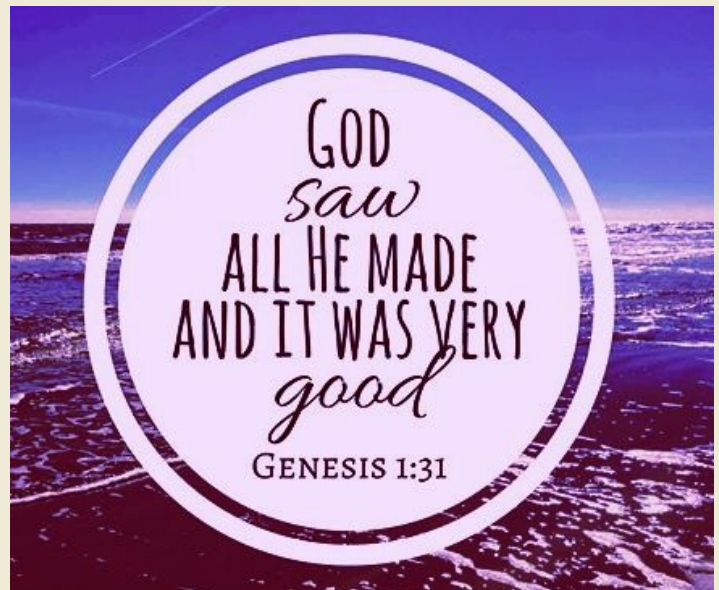


I) Multiple Choice Questions (10):

- On which day did God create human beings?
a) Third day; b) Fourth day;
c) Fifth day; d) Sixth day
- What were the names of the first man and woman?
a) Noah and Sarah; b) Adam and Eve;
c) Abraham and Sarah; d) Isaac and Rebekah
- What fruit did Adam and Eve eat in the Garden of Eden?
a) Apple; b) Mango;
c) The Bible does not say; d) Fig
- Who built the ark?
a) Abraham; b) Moses;
c) Joseph; d) Noah
- What was the sign of God's covenant with Noah after the flood?
a) A dove; b) A rainbow;
c) A star; d) A mountain
- God asked Abraham to sacrifice which of his sons?
a) Ishmael; b) Jacob;
c) Isaac; d) Joseph
- Who had a coat of many colors?
a) Benjamin; b) Jacob;
c) Esau; d) Joseph
- What did Joseph's brothers do to him?
a) Made him king; b) Sent him to school;
c) Sold him into slavery; d) Took him to Egypt for a holiday
- Who interpreted Pharaoh's dreams about the seven cows and seven ears of grain?
a) Moses; b) Aaron;
c) Joseph; d) Jacob
- How many days did God take to create the world?
a) Five; b) Six;
c) Seven; d) Eight

II) Fill in the blanks (5):

- God created the first man named _____.
- Noah built an _____ to save his family and the animals.
- God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the _____ in the sky.
- Joseph was sold into _____ by his brothers.
- God rested on the _____ day after creation.



Answers

Multiple Choice

1. D; 2. B; 3. C; 4. D; 5. B; 6. C; 7. D; 8. C; 9. C; 10. B

Fill in the Blanks

1. Adam; 2. Ark; 3. Stars; 4. Slavery; 5. Seventh

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