

FR. AGNEL

ASHRAM NEWS

AUGUST 2026



BE BLESSED
WITH PEACE,
JOY AND
ABUNDANT
HOPE

THE ASSUMPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

BALBHAVAN SPONSORSHIP

Dear Friends and Well-Wishers,

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8th September is a special time of rejoicing —the birth of Mary, the Mother of God, through whom our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, came into the world.

It is also a time of rejoicing for our little **Agnelite Angels**- the children of Balbhavan at **Fr. Agnel Ashram**, Bandra as our children look forward with great excitement to organising their annual Fun Fair - a day filled with laughter, friendship and joyful memories.

On this blessed occasion, we humbly seek your generous support however big or small towards the care, education and well-being of our children. Your precious gift to these little ones will help us provide them with the love, opportunities and care they deserve.

We wish you a Happy Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary and assure you of our daily prayers for your special intentions by our children.

With a grateful heart and best regards,

Yours Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Valerian D'Souza, sfx

(Superior)

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FR. AGNEL

ASHRAM NEWS

AUGUST 2026

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OUT OF THEIR BOUNTY

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**SEPTEMBER 2026
MARY QUEEN OF EVERY HEART**

Every year, August 15 awakens a deep sense of pride, gratitude and patriotism in the hearts of millions of Indians. Independence Day is far more than a national holiday; it is a solemn reminder of the sacrifices, struggles and aspirations that led to the birth of a free and sovereign nation. In 1947, after nearly two centuries of British rule, India achieved independence.



Lesser-Known Facts About Independence Day

India's Independence Day is enriched by several fascinating historical details. At the time of independence, neither Jana Gana Mana nor Vande

Mataram had yet received formal constitutional recognition. Both were officially accorded their respective status in 1950 and continue to inspire generations of Indians.

The story of the National Flag is equally inspiring. Before the present tricolour was adopted, several earlier designs were proposed. Freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya played a key role in developing the flag that eventually evolved into the saffron, white and green tricolour bearing the Ashoka Chakra. The final design was formally adopted by the Constituent Assembly on July 22, 1947.

Another interesting fact concerns the date itself. Although the Indian Independence Act received Royal Assent on July 18, 1947, August 15 was chosen as the day on which India would formally attain independence.

Remembering Unsung Heroes

While history rightly honours many national leaders, numerous contributors to India's freedom movement remain relatively unknown. One such figure is Kaka Joseph Baptista of Mumbai. Born into an East Indian Catholic family of Bombay, Joseph Baptista was a distinguished lawyer, political leader and close associate of Bal Gangadhar Tilak. He played an important role in the Home Rule Movement and was among the early advocates of self-government for India.

Contributions from Diverse Communities

India's freedom movement was a truly national effort that united people across religions, languages, regions and social backgrounds. Among the notable contributors were K. T. Paul, who advocated greater self-government and

national development; George Joseph, a lawyer and close associate of Mahatma Gandhi who participated actively in major nationalist movements; Accamma Cherian, remembered for her courageous leadership in Travancore; and Annie Mascarene, who championed responsible government and later served in independent India's democratic institutions.

Jawaharlal Nehru and the Building of Modern India

Among the leaders who shaped independent India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru occupies a special place as the nation's first Prime Minister. Born on

November 14, 1889, in Allahabad, he was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi and became one of the foremost leaders of the freedom movement. Imprisoned several times for his participation in the struggle against British rule, Nehru emerged as a central figure in India's march towards independence. Following independence in 1947, he led the nation through its formative years, laying the foundations of modern India through investments in science, technology, education and democratic institutions. His vision helped shape the course of the young republic.

Two Great Celebrations on August 15

For Indian Christians, August 15 carries an additional spiritual significance as Independence Day coincides with the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Both are connected by the theme of freedom. Independence Day celebrates political freedom—the hard-won right of a nation to govern itself. It recalls the sacrifices of countless freedom fighters who dreamed of a free India.

According to Christian belief, at the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken body and soul into heavenly glory. As Indians rejoice in the blessings of freedom on Independence Day, Christians pray for the nation, seeking peace, justice, unity and harmony.

Independence with Responsibility

The true message of 15 August lies in India's strength in its diversity and in the shared responsibility of its citizens to build a peaceful and prosperous future. It's not about power over others, but the ability to shape our lives with dignity for all.

Jubel D'Cruz

GUEST EDITORIAL

INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

FREEDOM SACRIFICE

NATIONAL UNITY

Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School hosts Inaugural Mass & Felicitation Programme.

Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School solemnly organized its Inaugural Mass and Felicitation Programme, marking the beginning of a new academic journey with prayer, gratitude, and a renewed commitment to excellence.



2



3



4

The celebration commenced with the **Holy** Mass, invoking God's blessings upon the students, staff, and the entire school community for the academic year ahead.

Following the Eucharistic celebration, the Felicitation Programme began with a vibrant Welcome Dance presented by the students, setting a joyful tone for the occasion. The Principal extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests, parents, staff, and students, emphasizing the importance of faith, learning, and holistic development. A captivating cultural performance by the students further showcased their talents and enthusiasm.

The Director, Rev. Fr. Alexio Luis, addressed the gathering and introduced the chief guest, His Excellency Most Rev. Simon Almeida,

expressing gratitude for his gracious presence and spiritual guidance. The Bishop was felicitated with great respect, followed by the felicitation of the other dignitaries present.

The gathering was enriched by inspiring speeches delivered by Rev. Fr. Peter D'Souza and the Local Superior, Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza, who encouraged the students to pursue excellence with integrity, compassion, and faith.

In his keynote address, His Excellency Most Rev. Simon Almeida shared a heartfelt message, encouraging the school community to remain rooted in moral values while striving for academic excellence and personal growth. He appreciated the dedication of the management, staff, and students in fostering an environment of learning, service, and character formation.



1



5



6



7

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to the Bishop, the dignitaries, the management, the staff, the students and everyone who contributed to the success of the event.

The Inaugural Mass and Felicitation Programme served as a meaningful beginning to move forward with faith, hope & commitment to excellence.

1 Most Rev. Bishop Simon Almieda Celebrating the Eucharist

2 Former Director and Manager- Fr. Peter D'Souza speaking about the roots of the school

3 Grand Welcome to His Excellency Most Rev. Bishop Simon Almeida (Bishop of Poona)

4 The Director- Fr. Alexio Luis, felicitating the Bishop with a memento

5 Principal - Mrs. Minal Kasbey felicitating Ex-Teacher Mrs. Luiza Kedari

6 Mass celebrated by His Excellency Most Rev. Bishop Simon Almeida along with Pilar Fathers

7 Students performing a skit on the Glorious History of Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School

Agnelites of Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School and Junior College Pune bring laurels in it's 25th year.

The institution has once again achieved remarkable results, reflecting the dedication, perseverance and hard work of our students, the unwavering commitment of our teachers, the constant encouragement and support of the management and parents.

The Management, Director - Rev. Fr. Alexio Luis, Principal - Mrs. Minal Kasbey and the entire staff extend their heartfelt congratulations to all the students for their remarkable achievements. We also express our sincere appreciation to the parents and well-wishers whose continuous support has contributed significantly to this success.

These excellent results reaffirm the institution's commitment to nurturing young minds and fostering a culture of academic excellence, integrity, and holistic development. We wish all our students continued success in their future academic pursuits and professional endeavours.

We congratulate all our achievers for bringing glory to the institution and wish them success in all their future endeavours.

The School celebrates its Silver Jubilee this year and, our students have demonstrated exceptional performance and brought great pride to the institution.

It gives us immense pleasure to announce the outstanding academic performance of the students of Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School and Junior College in the SSC and HSC Board Examinations held in March 2026.

The SSC Section achieved a 100% pass rate, marking another significant milestone in the institution's pursuit of academic excellence.

S.S.C.

97.00
%

CHOHAN RIDDHI SUJITSINGH

95.40
%RAJPUT
CHITRALI
SANTOSH SINGHBELHEKAR
AYUSH
CHANDRAKANT94.60
%

NAPHADE BHUMI PRAPHUL

MARATHI

94 MARKS

PATIL SIDDHI VIKAS
KULAT VAISHNAVI PRASHAN

HINDI

94 MARKS

NAPHADE BHUMI PRAPHUL

ENGLISH

94 MARKS

NAPHADE BHUMI PRAPHUL
RAJPUT CHAITRALI SANTOSH SINGH
PEERZADA FATEMA FAROOQUE
CHOUHAN RIDDHI SUJITSINGH
BELEKAR AYUSH CHANDRAKANT

SCIENCE

99 MARKS

CHOUHAN RIDDHI SUJITSINGH
BELEKAR AYUSH CHANDRAKANT

MATHEMATICS

99 MARKS

RAJPUT CHAITRALI SANTOSH SINGH

SOCIAL SCIENCE

97 MARKS

NAPHADE BHUMI PRAPHUL

The **Higher Secondary Section** also recorded outstanding results in both the **Science** and **Commerce** streams. These achievements are a testament to the determination, discipline, and pursuit of excellence displayed by our students throughout the academic year.

H.S.C. SCIENCE



81.33
%

DEWASI BHARAT HIRARAM



80.33
%

DHOLE AKANKSHA PRAVIN



78.83
%

MOURYA MAHEK RAMESH

H.S.C. COMMERCE



92.50
%

**PATHAN
ALIZA
BILAL**



**PAWAR
NEHA
MAHADEV**



89.17
%

HIRANI SIMRAN SALIMBHAI



86.17
%

CHOUDHARY BHAVESH MANARAM

THE SCHOOL MARKS SILVER JUBILEE WITH PARLIAMENT INSTALLATION 7



The Parliament system has been introduced to inculcate responsibility, accountability, leadership qualities and democratic values among students.



The ceremony commenced with an offertory prayer service seeking God's blessings. The occasion was marked by enthusiasm and a strong sense of commitment as the parliamentarians assumed their responsibilities for the academic year.

Addressing the gathering, the Director of the institution, Rev. Fr. Alexio Luis, declared the theme for the academic year 2026–2027, "Rooted in History, Reaching for Tomorrow." The theme holds special significance as the school celebrates its Silver Jubilee Year, marking its 25th year of excellence in education, holistic development and service to society.

Rev. Fr. Alexio Luis encouraged the student leaders to uphold the values of integrity, discipline, and service while carrying out their duties. The ceremony concluded with a renewed sense of pride as the school continues its Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Ambernath, Celebrates Outstanding SSC & HSC Results (2025-26)

Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Ambernath, marked its 25th year of excellence in education with an extraordinary achievement in the SSC Examination 2025-26, securing a 100% pass result and reaffirming its reputation as one of the most trusted institutions in Ambernath.

281 students appeared for the **SSC Exam**, of which 59 students bagged above 90% scores while 151 students secured Distinction with above 75% marks. There were 63 students with 1st Class and eight with 2nd Class.

This milestone year became even more memorable as the school produced remarkable academic performances, with three student toppers, namely **Lakshita Ravi Wadhwani**, **Vivaan Vijay Dawra** and **Naitik Bharat Goklani**, scoring **97.20%** each.

The second position was secured by **Prisha Sunil Makhija** with an impressive score of **97.00%**. Sonal Rajesh Kauthale and **Ayush Tushar Marthe** stood third with **96.8%**. The SSC batch of 2025-26 demonstrated exceptional consistency and hard work.

As the school steps into the future beyond its 25-year milestone, it remains committed to shaping confident, responsible, and future-ready individuals. The SSC Results 2025-26 stand as a shining example of what can be achieved through hard work, discipline and a shared vision for excellence.

S.S.C.

1ST RANK

LAKSHITA R.
WADHWANI97.20
%VIVAAN V.
DAWRA

NAITIK B. GOKLANI

97.00
%

2ND RANK



PRISHA S. MAKHIJA

96.80
%

3RD RANK

SONAL R.
KAUTHALEAYUSH T.
MARATHE95.60
%

4TH RANK



MEDHA S. NAIR

95.40
%

5TH RANK

NIKKI J.
WADHWARUGVED P.
TAMANEKAR

Success

4 PILLARS

KNOW WHAT ARE YOU DOING....

BELIEVE IN WHAT ARE YOU DOING....

LOVE WHAT ARE YOU DOING....

BUT MOST IMPORTANT THING IS **NEVER**
GIVE UP WHAT YOU ARE DOING....

In the **HSC** Board Exam, the Junior College has consistently bagged 100% results, is also the only Junior College in the region to achieve this year after year. A total of 75 students appeared for the HSC Board Exam. The topper, **Elona Porathur**, bagged 90.83%. Eight students secured Distinction, 35 bagged 1st Class and 31 students scored 2nd Class, together with one Pass Class.

H.S.C. SCIENCE 1ST RANK

72.00
%



PURVA B. MALI

68.50
%



STUTHY S. MALIYACKAL

68.00
%



GAURI R. WALMIKI

H.S.C. COMMERCE 1ST RANK

90.83
%



ELONA J. PORATHUR

89.50
%



NAMAN G. NEGI

86.33
%



SANIYA K. JAIN

TODAY'S dreams ARE TOMORROWS marvels

Ibonio D'Souza

Some people have a great contempt for dreamers. They pride themselves on their extreme practicality, and are fond of asserting the folly of building castles in the air. Yet every great achievement in the world's history was first foreshadowed in the mind of the achiever.

The plan precedes the building. Equally true is it that you must toil for the bricks and mortar that shall go into your castle or it will never come out of the air. Think of the debt we owe to the celebrated physicist Albert Einstein who came to the extraordinary discovery of the principle of relativity, after having a vivid dream! Elias Howe too, invented the lockstitch sewing machine based on a famous dream that helped him understand the mechanical penetration of the needle. It was the dream of Professor Bell and his father which opened a new world to the deaf and dumb people. If it was not for Guglielmo Marconi's dream which made possible long distance radio transmission and radio telegraph system, not only thousands of lives but a great many ships and a vast amount of property would have been lost.

At one time, anyone who talked seriously of mechanical flights in the air was looked at pityingly by the wise ones, and relegated at once to the list of cranks or madmen. Now air travel has become for many almost a daily routine. The very discovery of the country in which American dreams were dreamed and realised in the past, and are being dreamed about and realised today, was the result of years of Christopher Columbus's dreaming. Think of what the world owes to those great dreamers of democracy in the past. That mighty dream crumbled thrones and toppled monarchies and dictators in the past has gone on increasing in vividness and strength until today mankind is actually talking of a World Republic.

Whether young or old, if you encourage your dreaming propensities, you will tend to bring out new powers which, perhaps, you did not know you possessed. Nothing that the mind of man can conceive is impossible.

The dreamers of today are the achievers of tomorrow.

Fr. Agnel School Greater Noida,
Celebrates Academic Excellence in
SSC & HSC examinations (2025-26)

CLASS X

1ST RANK

99.20
%

NAINA AGARWAL

2ND RANK

98.60
%

AARUSH SOOD

3RD RANK

98.4
%

XII

SCIENCE 1ST RANK

97.40
%

ARNAVI SINGH JADAUN

2ND RANK

93.20
%

PRACHI

3RD RANK

92.20
%

VIVEK GIRI

XII

COMMERCE 1ST RANK

96.40
%

VANISHA SINGH

2ND RANK

93.20
%

HANSHIKA SHARMA

3RD RANK

90.40
%

YASHASVI BHATI

XII

CLASS XII
HUMANITIES 1ST RANK91.00
%

TANU KUMARI

2ND RANK

89.60
%

SANIYA ZAIDI

3RD RANK

88.40
%

KAUSHIK SAHU

AISSCE

AISSCE

AISSCE



AGNEL SAVOIR FAIRE - SUR TAAL AAKRITI 2.0

On July 25th, Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida, successfully concluded Agnel Savoir Faire – Sur Taal Aakriti 2.0, a three-day inter-school celebration of sporting excellence, cultural brilliance and youthful creativity.

The event brought together over 700 students from 23 schools, providing an inspiring platform for the young to showcase their talent, to compete, collaborate and excel.

The festival commenced on July 23 with the inter-school Basketball Tournament, featuring more than 35 teams competing with exceptional skill, determination, and sportsmanship. The sporting events continued with Kaayika Sangam, comprising athletics and skating competitions, where participants demonstrated remarkable endurance, discipline, and team spirit.

The cultural segment, Kala Sangam, was inaugurated on July 24 by the Chief Guest, Ms. T. Reddy Lakshmi, an eminent classical dancer. In her inspiring address, she encouraged students to pursue excellence through dedication, perseverance, and self-belief. The cultural festival showcased an impressive array of competitions in music, dance, art, and literary events, celebrating the creativity and artistic talents of young participants.

In Kaayika Sangam, Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida secured the highest overall points. In keeping with the institution's long-standing

tradition of not awarding the Overall Championship Trophy to the host school, the honour was conferred upon the first runners-up, Fr. Agnel School, Vaishali.

Similarly, in Kala Sangam, Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida emerged as the highest overall scorer. Following the same tradition, the Overall Championship Trophy was presented to the first runners-up, St. John's School, Greater Noida.

The Basketball Tournament witnessed thrilling contests, with Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida emerging champions in the Under-17 Girls and Under-14 Girls categories. In the Boys category Samsara World School clinched the Under-17 Boys title, while Fr. Agnel School, Noida secured the Under-14 Boys championship.

The festival concluded with a grand valedictory and prize distribution ceremony, honouring the achievements of the participants and celebrating the spirit of healthy competition, creativity, and camaraderie. Agnel Savoir Faire – Sur Taal Aakriti 2.0 once again reaffirmed Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida's commitment to holistic education by nurturing excellence in sports, culture, leadership, and the performing arts.

AGNEL SAVOIR FAIRE - SUR TAAL AAKRITI 2.0

AISSE



PRAGYA BHARTI

1ST RANK

97.40%



MEGHA JOHNY

2ND RANK

96.80%



AANYA GOEL

3RD RANK

96.60%

AISSE
SCIENCE

ANANDI GERA

1ST RANK

96.40%



AAYUSH MALHOTRA

2ND RANK

95.60%



PARTH KUMAR

3RD RANK

95.20%

AISSE
COMMERCE

MOHD. ARSH

1ST RANK

95.60%



HARSHAD ARORA

2ND RANK

93.20%



AKSHIT JASWAL

3RD RANK

91.60%

AISSE
HUMANITIES

ANJALI ROY

1ST RANK

92.20%



RITU KHALKO

2ND RANK

91.20%



ARYAMAN SINGH

3RD RANK

89.20%

AISSE



MEERA AGARWAL

1ST RANK

98.20%



AASHITA MAINI

2ND RANK

97.60%



CHARISMA SIBY

2ND RANK

97.60%



ANVESHA AROORA

3RD RANK

97.40%

AISSE
SCIENCE

ANWESHA SAHA

1ST RANK

96.20%



NIRWAN JAIN

2ND RANK

95.80%



ISHAN LAKHCHAURA

3RD RANK

95.40%

AISSE
COMMERCE

AYUSH MISHRA

1ST RANK

96.20%



AADYA GARG

2ND RANK

95.40%



NAVYA JAIN

3RD RANK

95.20.60%

AISSE
HUMANITIES

ARIKA MASSEY

1ST RANK

95.00%



KRITIKA SINGH BHADANA

2ND RANK

94.20%



MANOGYA

3RD RANK

94.00%

THE month of AUGUST is important

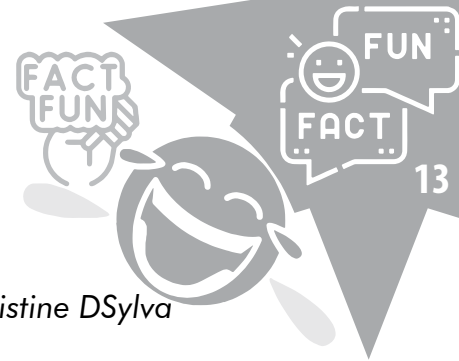
WE CELEBRATE OUR INDEPENDENCE DAY

on 15th August

It is a day to celebrate for we achieved our freedom from the British. Let us not forget that being free is the birth right not just of every citizen but of every nation that should never be enslaved to a foreign power.

Undoubtedly there were some positive changes that some people point out when we were ruled by the British but truly the disadvantages were far greater than any advantages these rulers had on our nation. We became a poor nation and today we have progressed quite a lot, so much that India is ranked as one of the world's fastest growing major economy.

So with that happy note, let's begin...



Christine DSylva

QUIZ!

FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF INDIA

1. What movement was started by Gandhi in 1942?
2. Who was also known as Netaji and said, "Give me blood and I shall give you freedom."
3. The freedom fighter who was called the 'Iron Man of India'?
4. Who said, "Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it?"
5. Who was known as the Grand Old Lady of the Independence movement?

RIDDLE ME...

1. What has four wheels and flies?
2. I am tall when I am young but get shorter and shorter as I age. What am I?
3. What question can no one answer to?
4. What is always looming in front of you but cannot be seen?
5. There is a Duplex flat with red door, white walls and a big garden. What is the colour of the walls on the third floor?

AISSE



1ST RANK
98.20%



2ND RANK
96.20%



3RD RANK
96.00%

ANANTIKA SIDDHARTH

ANVAY AGARWAL

ANANYA SRIVASTAVA

AISSE SCIENCE



1ST RANK
93.20%



1ST RANK
93.20%



2ND RANK
91.80%



3RD RANK
91.60%

AMAY SAHNI

RATI MAHESHWARI

JIVESH BISHT

HARSHDEEP

AISSE COMMERCE



1ST RANK
97.20%



2ND RANK
95.80%



3RD RANK
90.20%

AYUSH AGGARWAL

VAISHNAVI SINGH RAJPUT

ADARSH JAIN

AISSE HUMANITIES



1ST RANK
96.00%



2ND RANK
93.80%



3RD RANK
92.80%

URJA GUPTA

TASKEEN KAUR

EKAA SINGH

THE WEIGHT

EL-ROI

AD

EL-

EL-ELYON

Each name of God attributed to Him in Scripture defines and describes a characteristic of God - Who He is, How He acts, What He does. We get a slight insight into the nature and personhood of God, when we call out to Him in that name. God's names are not randomly given; hence there is more meaning to our prayer when we call out to God using His name. The features associated with each name, are what we are called to imbibe and imitate, in the routine of our daily lives and especially, in challenging situations. **The names behind the face:**

EL-ROI *The God who sees me. Genesis 16:13*

The God who sees me. Genesis 16:13 The first person in the Bible to give God a name was a pregnant Egyptian slave girl. Overlooked by everyone, here was a woman with no status or power, a foreigner with nowhere to go. When the promise of a son seemed impossible, Abraham and Sarah committed the sin of getting things to move along, rather than waiting for God's plan to unfold. The son born to Hagar, Sarah's servant girl, belonged to her master because the slaves/servant girls were owned by their masters. Once the son was born, Hagar began treating her mistress with contempt. Sarah now commits the next sin of treating her slave harshly, and Hagar runs away with her son, to the desert, where she has no one and no protection. She could have been ridiculed by people for her pregnancy, which was a consequence of her own actions. Hagar is not a perfect human nor is she a saint. In spite of what she is and what she is going through, when she calls on God as EL-ROI, God hears her. God comes to her and promises are made regarding her son, Ishmael. God sees us too, despite our failures; our nastiness, in our dryness. We may feel overlooked by people but never by God. His love is personal, His attention intentional and His presence constant.

ADONAI, ELOHIM *My Lord, My Master. Genesis 15:2, Psalm 8:1, Genesis 1:1*

The Hebrew term ADONAI is a plural form of ADON which people used as a substitute for the Tetragrammaton, the 4 letter word YHWH = Yodh, Heh, Waw, Heh, a name that could not be pronounced in the Hebrew bible. In Christianity it is vocalised as Yahweh or Jehovah. This was the name revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Elohim the plural form of Eloah is interpreted as a 'plural of majesty'. When referring to the creator, Elohim is understood in the singular sense. Elohim is often used to refer to God's relationship with creation, power and the world outside Israel. This name of God refers to Him as both the omnipotent creator and the God of the nations.

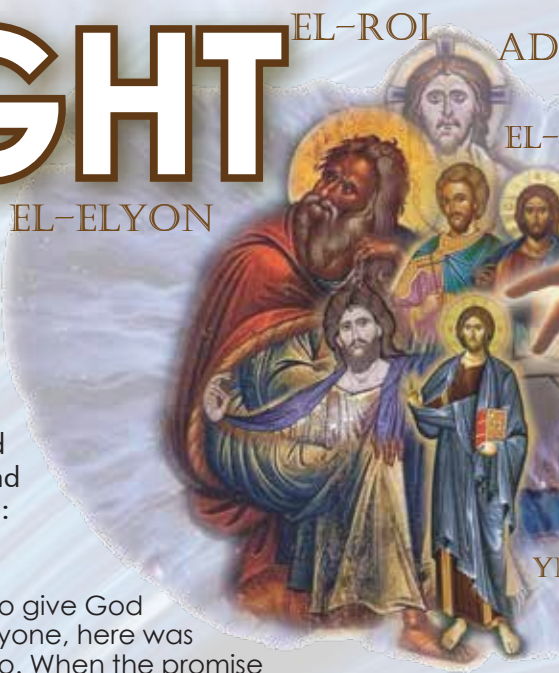
Adonai and Elohim signify God's authority, dominion and ownership over all creation. To use these names in prayer all we need to say is: Father, You are Adonai, my Lord, You are Elohim, my Master. I submit my life to your authority. Rule over my decisions, actions and my path.

EL-ELYON *God most high. Genesis 14: 19, 20, 22*

EL comes from the short form of ELOHIM. The 2 EL in this name indicate the authority of God and His lone supremacy over everything. We are not worshipping one amongst many gods. We are worshipping the supreme Godhead. In Mk 5:7 we find Jesus healing the demoniac. In Lk 1:35 the angel says - Most High. In Acts 16: 16 -18 we are told of the slave girl with a divining spirit who follows Paul and Silas shouting that they are servants of the Most High God who will make known a way of salvation. Paul freed her in the name of Jesus Christ. Her gift of fortune telling was a fraud because it came from being in contact with the occult world.

EL-SHADDAI

God is called Almighty 48 times and All Sufficient 7 times in the OT. Ishmael is already born, Hagar has been done away with, yet there is no Godliness in the disturbed household of Abram. God changes Abram's name to Abraham - Father of nations, while reiterating His promise of a son. Abraham laughs and audaciously questions the possibility. To which God responds: I am EL-SHADDAI- The All - Sufficient God. To the many questions hovering in Abraham's mind, God had just 1 answer, "EL - SHADDAI. I am All SUFFICIENT. I will provide for you". When St. Paul asks God 3 times to take away the 'thorn in my flesh', Corinthians 12:8, God's response can be found in Philip 3:8, "My grace



OF A NAME

JEHOVAH JIREH

NINETTE D'SOUZA

is sufficient for you". When in doubt, when struggling against all odds proclaim loudly, EL- SHADDAI.

YEHOVAH NISSI

JEHOVAH JIREH *My God the Provider. Genesis 22:13-14, Hebrews 11:17, Psalm 89:34.*

JEHOVAH TSURI

Abraham coined this name for God, after He provided the ram for the sacrifice, instead of Issac. God does not accept Ishmael for the sacrifice, because he does not come from the promise God made to Abraham. There was nothing wrong either with Abraham coined this name for God, after He provided the ram for the sacrifice, instead of Issac. God does not accept Ishmael for the sacrifice, because he does not come from the promise God made to Abraham. There was nothing wrong either with Hagar, or Ishmael but God's promises cannot be taken lightly or frivolously. They are very very important. When God makes a promise to us, He fulfils it and gives in abundance, more than we can expect, despite our sinfulness. Abraham was asked to sacrifice the son, God Himself promised him, on Mount Moriah. Abraham's confidence never wavered, going ahead with the sacrifice. He knew God would never let Issac be sacrificed. His trust stemmed from his belief in God's promise of generations that would come forth from him. Scripture is filled with God's promises to us. No matter how challenging our circumstances, we need not be afraid, because God never breaks His promises even when, we break ours to him. Often, we turn to God to ask for myriad favours. We need to check if thanks explicitly ever come forth for God, from our lips.

YEHOVAH NISSI *The LORD is my Banner. Exodus 17: 15*

This name literally affirms that God is our rallying point, from where we get our strength. As vagabonds the Israelites were always on the move, ill-prepared to fight any battles, constantly being attacked by different enemies. This victory that they won, was with Moses' hands being held up constantly. Hence, Moses built an altar here, and called the Lord thus. It is under God's outstretched arm that we do what we do. Gideon's story is another such marvel. Gideon was no soldier, he worked in a wine press. His army was sieved from 32,000 to 300 of the weakest. They fought under the banner of the Lord. While 1 Samuel 17 tells of the battle between David and Goliath verse 47 highlights God's role in the battle. In Acts 3, Peter commands the man to walk under the power of the name of Jesus. When we feel we're not fully prepared for any battle, it's good to just close our eyes, whisper "Yehowah Nissi" – Lord under your banner I go forth, I know You will be with me.

YEHOVAH TSURI *The LORD is my Banner. Exodus 17: 15*

David regularly refers to God as 'Rock' in the psalms, most of which are written by him. In 2 Samuel 22:1-3 David is in the wilderness while running away from Saul. He experiences the Lord and therefore calls Him Rock. What is the importance of a rock? In the wilderness the huge rock gives shade and shelter, when there is no covering of trees. When you sit against it opposite the sun, the shadow of the rock falls on you. The rock thus becomes a shield, a refuge. Besides David we also read in Genesis 28:10-11, about Jacob who at the time was an insecure person, doing things on the sly. He uses a rock to rest his head and sees a vision of a ladder and angels going up and down. Until that time Jacob had no relationship with God. This wilderness experience brings about a complete change in him. He holds on to the rock and his insecurity disappears. In our wilderness in whatever area it may be, cling on to Yehowah Tsur.

**In conclusion we can say that
when we call on God
by His names,
we are not just praising Him,
we are activating
Revelation in Prayer.**

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TOGETHER

No woman disciple of Jesus has influenced Christian and world history as much as Mary, the Mother of Jesus. So India's Catholic and Orthodox Christians happily celebrate one of Mary's most important feasts, the Assumption, on 15th August annually.

This feast actually celebrates the fullness of the work of God the Father and of Jesus Christ in Mary. We acknowledge that Mother Mary is fully redeemed by the Blessed Trinity not only in her first moment of life (Dogma of the Immaculate Conception: "By a singular privilege and grace of the omnipotent God, in consideration of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind, Mary was preserved free from all stain of original sin") BUT ALSO IN HER LAST MOMENT OF LIFE ON EARTH (Dogma of the Assumption: "When the course of her earthly life was finished, Mary was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven").

However, Mary's assumption into heaven is not just a personal reward, it is also a pledge of the fulfilment of the promises of God for ALL of humanity – for she is the Model Disciple and where she is now, all the elect must hope to be one day. As St Paul put it, "We ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for... the redemption of our bodies" (Rom 8:23).

ALL God's children who are called to walk in faith and be united with God in love can look at Mary and find hope welling up in them, bringing confidence and joy that "he who is mighty and has done great things for her will likewise do "great things" for them too.

Our filial devotion to Mary is part of Jesus' last will and testament! As the last Gospel recounts, only "after" having given Mary to us as spiritual mother did Jesus say, "It is finished" (Jn 19:28-30). The giving of Mary to us was not a last-minute thought of Jesus on the Cross, but part of the work of redemption entrusted to him

by the Father from all eternity (see Jn 5:19 and 8:29). However, devotion to Mary does not mean just pious practices. To be authentic and fruitful, Marian Devotion must:

- (a) commemorate what Scripture teaches about Mary, and not fall into superstition or popular fantasy;
- (b) foster invocation but avoid adoration, for Mary's maternal intercession for us is powerful because of the merits of her Son, Jesus Christ and not because she herself is divine or a mini-god;
- (c) engender an imitation of Mary's virtues, especially her faith and obedience and not simply encourage the seeking of material favours as the main objective of devotion.

1. Commemoration: It was God who destined Mary to play a unique role in his plan of salvation. It was God who offered her the very special vocation of becoming the mother of his only beloved Son, Jesus: "Hail, highly favoured one (full of grace)" (Lk.1/28ff). Mary's personality was so open to the action of God that special effects of Christ's death and resurrection could be gifted to her before her birth and after her death. Mary's "unique place is as 'the woman' (Gen.3/15, Jn.2/4, Jn.19/25ff, Rev.12/1), "who takes part still in the monumental struggle against the powers of darkness which continues throughout human history" (John Paul II).

This continuing action of Mary, in the power of the Holy Spirit, can be seen in her apparitions at Lourdes, Guadalupe, Fatima, Vailankanni, etc., and in Marian shrines throughout the world (Czestochowa, Sheshan, Mount Mary Bandra, etc). Mary's special position and role in the Church was recognized and accepted from earliest times, indeed even by the founders of the Protestant Churches. Luther, for example, wrote sixty sermons in praise of her. His Commentary on the Magnificat concluded with the words, "We pray God to give us a right understanding which consists not merely in brilliant words but in glowing life of body and soul. May Christ grant us this through the intercession, and for the sake of, his dear Mother Mary."

Pope Paul VI showed great concern for the renewing and "the right-ordering of Marian devotion." In an



FOR A BETTER NATION

Apostolic Letter he explained: "What is needed on the part of the leaders of the local communities is effort, pastoral sensitivity and perseverance, while the faithful on their part must show a willingness to accept guidelines and ideas drawn from the true nature of Christian worship; this sometimes makes it necessary to change long-standing customs wherein the real nature of this Christian worship has become somewhat obscured" (Marialis Cultus, 31).

Therefore, to foster authentic Marian spirituality, we must encourage the memory of a Mary who is the loftiest fulfilment of the Gospel values and virtues, the best ambassador of the riches of Christian spirituality, the type and model of the Church. At Marian novenas and feasts, care must be taken by preachers to be faithful to the Gospels, and thus to promote a spirituality which will lead disciples to "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph 3:8).

2. Invocation: Adoration is the offering of one's whole being to God in praise and thanksgiving, because of God's own goodness, and for his marvelous works. Adoration (latria), if rendered to creatures, becomes idolatry! The homage that is given to the saints and Mary is not adoration but is rightly called "veneration" (dulia), by which the faithful render veneration, admiration, praise, intercession and imitation.

The majority of Christians during the last 2000 years have venerated Mary and invoked her maternal intercession. These include hundreds of millions of members of the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Churches and the ancient Churches of the East. Even after the Protestant Reformation, denominations like the Anglican Church have regained and foster today among their members, a Marian devotion.

Invocation of Mary can be made for many earthly needs (jobs, health, family, unity, etc.). While this is good, devotees must be taught to desire and seek even more what Christ himself promises to his disciples (the blessings of peace, wisdom, faith, strength to endure trials and persecution, etc.). That is why a commonly used

prayer of the Church to Mary asks, "Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ."

3. Imitation: Because Mary is the Model for every Christian, authentic devotion will consist also of imitation and not mere lip-service. In the Gospels, the Virgin Mary is presented as a woman of deep prayer, exercising her faith, hope and love in a heroic way to fulfill God's plan. Christians must want to imitate Mary in learning to persevere in prayer and virtue, and so grow each day into the likeness of Jesus.

Moreover, Christians must make strenuous efforts to implement Marian (that is, Gospel) values in their social dealings with one another. They must realize that they cannot have an authentic Marian spirituality if at the same time they practise discrimination against persons on the basis of caste, creed, colour, or social status. **MARY IS THE MOTHER OF ALL**, and all her children are therefore equal both in dignity and in their vocation as Christians. This conviction must filter down to the masses, and bring about a transformation in society, through Mary's example and intercession. (This is especially true in India with its problems of caste and corruption.)

AUTHENTIC MARIAN DEVOTION can be a powerful tool of evangelization! Through a new appreciation of the great gift that Mary is to all of humanity, and especially to India and through a renewal of Marian devotion in its various forms, many more believers can be helped to develop a close personal relationship with Mary and look upon her not just as a far-away benefactress but as a Mother who is at the same time a Friend and Guide, leading them surely to her beloved Son and Lord, Jesus Christ ("through Mary to Jesus").

MAY INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY BE CELEBRATED ON MARY'S FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, FOR THE GOOD OF ALL OUR COUNTRY-FELLOWS, AMEN!

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The Joy & Art OF BONDING

INSIGHTS from MOTHER MARY

We live in a divided world—divided by gender, age, religion, nationality and countless other differences. More tragically, we live amid conflict and war. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, there are about 130 armed conflicts across the world today. It is from the reality of this divided world that I invite you to reflect on the joy and the art of bonding and on the lessons we can learn from our beloved Mother Mary.

Scripture reminds us: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

MY MOTHER'S MEMORY

Whenever I reflect on Mother Mary, I cannot help but remember my own mother. She, too, was named Mary. Widowed at the age of thirty-nine and left to raise five children, she carried a heavy burden of anxiety and uncertainty. With little financial security and an uncertain future, she had no one to rely upon except for God's Divine Providence.

In those difficult years, she clung to Mother Mary with unwavering faith. On nights when anxiety overwhelmed her, she would wake us from our sleep, ask us to stretch out our hands, and together we would pray the entire Rosary—all 153 Hail Marys. As children, we often responded with anger and irritation. For her, however, the Rosary was a profound source of comfort, strength and hope.

Looking back today, I realize she was teaching us a lesson far greater than we understood then: a deep bond with Mary can become an

enduring source of courage and strength in life's darkest moments.

MARY HELPS US BOND

The Scriptures are filled with examples of how Mother Mary brings people together. One beautiful example is found in the Upper Room. Jesus was no longer physically with His disciples. Gathered together behind locked doors, they were filled with fear, grief, and uncertainty (John 20:19). Their dreams seemed shattered and they did not know what the future held. In the midst of this darkness stood Mother Mary. Though the Gospels do not record her words, her quiet presence spoke volumes. She had remained faithful at the foot of the Cross when others had fled, and she now became a source of courage and hope for the frightened disciples.

Mary reminded them, through her unwavering faith, of Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit would come. She united them in prayer, strengthened their trust in God, and kept the little community together until Pentecost. Her calm confidence transformed fear into expectation, making the Upper Room not a place of despair but the cradle of the Church's new beginning.

Perhaps the greatest example of Mary's bonding mission is found at the foot of the Cross. Amid the darkness of Calvary and the sorrow of Christ's final moments, Jesus lovingly entrusted His mother to the care of His beloved disciple, John, and entrusted John to Mary. He said to Mary, "Woman, behold your son," and to John, "Behold your

mother." In this profound exchange, Jesus not only ensured that His mother would not be left alone after His death but also established a spiritual family united in faith and love. In that sacred moment, Mary became the Mother of all believers, forever united with the human family as mother and children.

THE CHURCH CONTINUES MARY'S BONDING MISSION

The Catholic Church continues this beautiful tradition of bonding through devotion to Mother Mary and the Rosary. Think of the many Catholic families who still gather in the evenings to pray the Rosary together. Think of Basic Christian Communities and other prayer groups that strengthen their unity through Marian devotion. Think of drivers who quietly pray the Rosary as they travel long distances. Across the world, countless believers have discovered that praying with Mary strengthens relationships, deepens faith, and creates lasting bonds of love with all.

One of the most inspiring examples is the story of the Trapp Family Singers. During their escape from Nazi-controlled Austria, the Rosary became their constant source of strength, courage, and hope. As political tensions intensified following the German annexation of Austria in 1938, the deeply faithful family turned daily to the Rosary, entrusting every uncertainty, danger, and decision to the loving protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. With remarkable trust, they left behind their home, possessions, and familiar life, believing that God would guide them safely.

Maria von Trapp later testified that their reliance on prayer sustained them through every trial. Their story beautifully illustrates how devotion to Mother Mary through the Rosary inspired unwavering faith, perseverance and confidence in God's providential care during one of history's darkest periods.

LET MARY HELP YOU BOND

The testimonies are remarkable and deeply convincing. Just as Mother Mary united the disciples in the Upper Room, she continues to help families, Church communities, workplaces,

and every gathering of believers become places of unity and hope.

Here are three practical ways to invite Mary's bonding presence into our lives:

Pray the Rosary together. Just as it united the Trapp Family and millions of families throughout history, the Rosary strengthens relationships, heals divisions and draws people closer to Christ through Mary.

Meditate on Mary's life. Her experiences mirror our own. Reflect on her giving birth in poverty, becoming a migrant, searching for her lost Son, standing beneath the Cross and trusting God through every trial. In Mary's life, we find hope for our own.

Pray before the icons of Mother Mary. Meditating on sacred images of the Blessed Virgin opens our hearts to her humility, faith and loving obedience. In silent contemplation, Mary's gentle presence inspires peace, hope, trust and a deeper communion with God.

A footnote: As a Jesuit, like all other Jesuits, who claims to be, and ever tries to be, a companion of Jesus, Mother Mary, especially Madonna della Strada, holds a special place for me. St. Ignatius, and since then his followers, have sought the intercession of Mary in the severest situations of life and ministry.

Hence, here is my takeaway:

There is no greater joy than discovering the gift of unity that Mary brings. In our families, our churches, our communities and wherever believers gather, she continues to lead hearts toward her Son and to teach us the beautiful art of bonding in faith, hope and love.



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INDEPENDENCE educate well BEYONDwell

Building India's Future Through Education, Character and Holistic Well-being

Tancia Pires

As our **80th Independence Day** approaches, familiar sights and sounds begin to fill the air. School grounds resonate with the rhythmic footsteps of march-past rehearsals. The National Anthem echoes through classrooms and auditoriums. Streets, institutions, and homes proudly adorn themselves in the colours of our Tricolour. Social media fills with patriotic messages, and for a brief moment, the nation pauses to remember the sacrifices that gifted us our freedom. Yet this year, those celebrations evoke another image. Nearly eight decades ago, young Indians like Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Sukhdev, Rajguru, Ashfaqulla Khan, and countless unnamed heroes walked these very streets, not to celebrate freedom, but to demand it. They protested injustice, challenged oppression and envisioned an India where future generations would live with dignity, opportunity and hope. Today, our youth are once again taking to the streets. But their battle is different. They are demanding fair educational systems, transparency, accountability, equal opportunities and institutions worthy of their aspirations. They are seen singing the national anthem, not only in patriotism but to stop the cops from charging at them. While the causes have changed, the underlying pursuit remains strikingly familiar: a desire for justice and a better future for every Indian.

It compels us to ask a difficult yet necessary question. What does it truly mean for a nation to be independent?

Political freedom was undoubtedly the first milestone. But true independence cannot simply be measured by the absence of colonial rule. It must also be reflected in the strength of our institutions, the quality of our education, the health of our citizens, the integrity of our governance and the opportunities available to every child regardless of where they are born.

The greatness of any nation is often celebrated through its economic achievements. India's rise as one of the world's largest economies is a remarkable accomplishment and a source of national pride. Our advancements in digital technology, space exploration, healthcare, entrepreneurship and scientific research demonstrate extraordinary potential.

Yet economic growth alone cannot define national progress.

A nation cannot call itself truly prosperous if educational inequities leave students questioning the fairness of the systems meant to empower them. We cannot overlook the growing burden of lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity and cardiovascular disease that now affect millions of Indians, often at increasingly younger ages. Environmental challenges, including deteriorating air quality in many cities, continue to contribute to respiratory illnesses and reduced quality of life. Mental health concerns, once hidden behind stigma, are becoming impossible to ignore.

Meanwhile, many young Indians continue to move out of the country, not merely for higher salaries, but often in search of better research ecosystems, professional growth, work-life balance, cleaner environments or stronger public systems. Their aspirations are not a rejection of India, but a reminder that every nation must continually evolve if it hopes to retain its brightest minds.

The vision of our freedom fighters was never limited to replacing one flag with another. So, how do we continue building their vision today?

The answer begins with education, but perhaps not the kind of education we have traditionally pursued. For decades, educational success has been measured through marks, ranks, competitive examinations and degrees. While academic excellence undoubtedly matters, education that focuses solely on examinations risks producing graduates who can solve

N D E N C E NESS

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equations but struggle to solve societal problems; professionals with impressive qualifications but limited empathy; individuals who possess knowledge but lack wisdom.

True education should cultivate curiosity over rote memorisation, critical thinking over blind acceptance, collaboration over unhealthy competition, integrity over shortcuts and compassion over indifference. It should teach financial literacy alongside mathematics, digital responsibility alongside technology, constitutional values alongside civics, environmental stewardship alongside science and emotional resilience alongside ones' academic achievement.

This is where we must move beyond wellness.

Wellness is often understood as physical health that encompasses eating nutritious food, exercising regularly and preventing disease. These are undeniably essential. But holistic well-being extends much further. It embraces mental health, emotional intelligence, ethical decision-making, healthy relationships, purposeful living, social responsibility, creativity and community engagement.

A physically healthy society without empathy remains fractured. An academically brilliant society without ethics risks corruption. An economically successful nation without environmental responsibility jeopardises its future. Progress in one dimension can never compensate for neglect in another. Nation-building, therefore, begins not with policies alone but with people.

It begins with children who learn to ask thoughtful questions instead of memorising predetermined answers. With teachers who inspire curiosity rather than fear. With parents who value character as much as academic achievement. With healthcare professionals who emphasise prevention alongside treatment. With institutions that reward integrity. With citizens who understand that patriotism is expressed not only by saluting the flag but also by obeying traffic rules, protecting public

property, respecting diversity, conserving natural resources, supporting local communities and holding themselves accountable for a United India, they wish to create. The transformation of a country rarely begins in Parliament.

It begins in classrooms, homes, playgrounds, research laboratories, hospitals. In conversations around dinner tables. In every ordinary decision made by ordinary people.

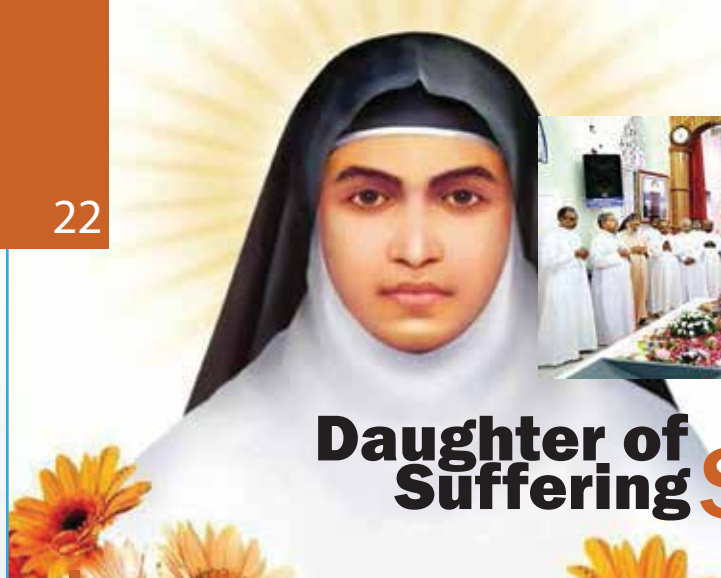
The ripple effect is profound. An educated individual strengthens a family. Strong families build resilient communities. Resilient communities elevate states. Strong states shape a stronger India. That is how nations rise, not overnight, but one citizen at a time.

As we celebrate another year of India's independence, perhaps the most meaningful tribute we can offer our freedom fighters is not simply remembering their courage, but continuing their unfinished mission in a form suited to our generation. They fought for political freedom. It now falls upon us to strengthen educational freedom, intellectual freedom, scientific thinking, public health, social responsibility and opportunities for every Indian to thrive.

The Tricolour reminds us of courage, peace, and prosperity. But these ideals cannot remain confined to our flags, speeches, or annual celebrations. They must become visible in our classrooms, hospitals, institutions, neighbourhoods, workplaces and everyday actions. Independence can be inherited only once. But Nation-building is inherited every single day.

If we educate beyond wellness by nurturing knowledgeable minds, healthy bodies, compassionate hearts, resilient spirits and responsible citizens, it is then, that we will not merely honour the sacrifices of our past.

We will build the India that our freedom fighters imagined and the India that future generations truly deserve!



Daughter of Suffering

St. Alphonsa of Bharananganam

In the banks of the river Meenachil stands the huge and beautiful millennium Church of St Mary Forane at Bharananganam, Kottayam, Kerala. Herein lies the tomb of St Alphonsa who died on July 28, 1946. Born at Muttathupadam on August 19th, 1910, she was the fourth child to her parents. Her quaint family house in the rustic village is simple yet impressive. Due to extreme heat, her mother in the eight month of pregnancy, slept on the verandah. A snake entwined around her waist, instinctively the mother to be managed to break free from the serpent. However utterly shocked she gave birth to her baby prematurely. After a few weeks of giving birth her mother died. Alphonsa's entry into this world began with suffering!

Affectionately called Annakutty by her aunty who reared her after her mother's death, she felt a burning desire as a child to emulate the character and virtues of St. Teresa of Lisieux after reading the autobiography of the Saint. Shunning offers of marriage, the young girl completely abandoned herself to Jesus. Annakutty took the name Alphonsa when she received the veil of the Postulant, desiring to be ever faithful to Jesus. In the convent she was ill continuously, facing grievous sufferings one after another, the sisters often felt that she wouldn't survive but miraculously she experienced health and restoration through the intercession of St Theresa of Lisieux and St Elias Chavara. Alphonsa had a strong faith that nothing would ever happen to her without the knowledge of Jesus. Often she couldn't sleep properly at night due to her illness, she took these hours as opportunities to pray. In her own words she



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describes her faith, "The grapes are crushed in the wine press to get juice. When we preserve and purify this juice, it becomes inebriating wine. Even so, we mature into spiritual fortitude when purified through miseries and sufferings."

Through pain And sufferings, Alphonsa's only desired to cultivate a phial of

virtues, which she sealed and offered to Jesus alone. Says St Alphonsa: "Humility is the queen of all virtues. I consider all occasions to humble myself as a great fortune" Aspiring zealously to have love towards everyone, she felt that it was impossible for her to hate anyone. Alphonsa writes, "I shall never complain, whatever be the miseries that might befall me" This was evident in her short life of 36 years. She readily embraced her sufferings, "I am a daughter of suffering. It is with stones of suffering and sacrifice that we build mansions for us in heaven. The Lord who gives the bitter concoction will serve the sweetening sugar too". She was found smiling in her moments of trials and often said, "Smile is a wick of light. I shall gaze upon gloomy faces and smile graciously to them" The hallmark of her life was obedience, to her superiors, accepting decisions as God's Will.

The feast of St Alphonsa is commemorated on July 28th. It must never have dawned on the young lady that she would be declared a Saint someday, she merely chose to live each day of her life as a simple Clarist nun within the four walls of her convent, offering herself as a Holocaust of love and suffering to her Divine Spouse. At her funeral her spiritual director mentioned, "With the most profound conviction in my heart, I affirm that we are attending the last rites of a saintly person. If the world had realized her intrinsic worth, unprecedented crowds would have assembled here". The children who visited her tomb to place flowers and candles were the first to experience blessings and transformation. Countless miracles are attributed year after year to her saintly intercession and pilgrims throng here, round the year to seek solace and grace. God was pleased to honor and exalt this humble soul by raising her to the status of Blessed and on 12th October 2008 she was declared a Saint by Pope Benedict XVIth. Bharananganam is now become a beacon of hope for the heart broken.

The Bandra Fair (Mount Mary Fair) is an annual week-long festival held around Mount Mary's Basilica in Bandra, Mumbai. It begins on the Sunday following the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8th) and runs through the following Sunday.

The Bandra Fair (Mount Mary Fair) will be held from September 13 to September 20, 2026. Taking place at the Basilica of Our Lady of the

Our Lady of the Mount Bandra Fair

Merlin Dalmeida

Mount in Bandra, West, Mumbai, it celebrates the feast of the Nativity of Mother Mary.

•**Local Treats:** Don't miss out on traditional sweets like 'marzipan' and 'sugar aries' (hard, sweet sugar shapes) sold by local vendors.

•**Getting There:** The church is about 2.5km from Bandra Railway Station. Due to severe congestion and pedestrian traffic, locals strongly recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes and utilizing public transport or auto-rickshaws.

•**Church Etiquette:** Big bags are typically prohibited inside the Basilica and quiet devotion is expected in the prayer areas.

•**Trust and tradition:** Fun and fair are deeply intertwined, anchoring identity and resilience across cultures and generations. Tradition builds a shared emotional framework that nurtures interpersonal bonds and never failing trust in Our Lady at the Mount in multi-lingual community engagement and values.

According to legend, the celebration began when a statue of Mary was discovered floating in the Arabian Sea between 1700 and 1760, which a Koli Christian fisherman had already dreamt about earlier. This was considered a miracle and the fair was started to celebrate the event. Monti Fest celebrated by Goans, Karwaris & Mangaloreans is similar to the Bandra Fest

and coincides with the Nativity.

Our Lady also highly revered in 'The Assumption' is a Catholic doctrine teaching that at the end of her earthly life, the Virgin Mary was taken body and soul into heavenly glory. Pope Pius XII officially defined this as an infallible dogma in 1950 and it is celebrated annually as a solemnity on August 15. The blessed Mary is not just a mother but a beautiful soul who has many devotees who look upon her with solace and families pray the rosary to seek her unfailing help and perpetual blessings.

Catholic theology connects the Assumption directly to Mary's Immaculate Conception.

Being preserved from original sin, it is believed, she did not bodily decay after death. The Feast of the Assumption (August 15) is widely observed as a Holy Day of Obligation in many countries. While the term "Ascension" is used for Jesus Christ ascending to heaven by his own divine power, "Assumption" indicates that Mary was taken up by the grace and power of God. For Christians, the Assumption is celebrated as a "first fruit" and a promise of the resurrection awaiting all believers, symbolizing that both the human body and soul are sacred and destined for eternity.

In the German-speaking and some Slavic countries (like Poland), the custom of blessing (aromatic) herbs is associated with the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This ancient custom "came to be associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary, in part because of the biblical images applied to her such as vine, lavender, cypress and lily, partly from seeing her in terms of a sweet smelling flower because of her virtue", and Isaiah's reference to the shoot springing from the side of Jesse, which brought Jesus Christ as a fruit. The custom is also related to the tradition of the *Frauendreibiger* (means approx. "thirty days of Our Lady"), a period lasting to 8 September, the Feast of the Nativity of Mary. This rural tradition goes back to the fact that the herbs contain particularly high levels of essential oils at this time of year and are especially healthy.

The assumption is celebrated because Mother Mary rose from the earthly wrong doings and went up to the highest level.



There is no JOY GREATER than the THE JOY OF GIVING

Dinaz Harinarain Singh, Secundarabad

I have contributed an amount of Rs.16000/- via NEFT for the Balbhavan boys at Fr.Agnel Ashram.

Judie Regina, Jagdalpur

I am pleased to donate an amount of Rs.30000/- through NEFT towards the full sponsorship of 2 Balbhavan boys.

Agnel Amaldass, Dharwad

As a token of thanksgiving for various favours received through the intercession of Fr.Agnel. I have donated an amount of Rs.6000/- through Money Order for the welfare of Balbhavan and Fr.Agnel Ashram.

Mathew Joseph D'Souza, Vasai

I have made a contribution of Rs.10000/- through NEFT as a Thanksgiving & for the welfare of Balbhavan boys in Fr.Agnel Ashram.

Francis Ivan Creado, Malad

This contribution of Rs. 20000/- via UPI towards the medical, education and to fulfilling all needs of the Balbhavan boys.

Madonna Domnic Lopes, Mumbai

I am providing an amount of Rs.4000/- through NEFT in support for the charity works taken at Fr. Agnel Balbhavan.

Evangelisto Conceicao D'Souza, UAE

I have contributed an amount of Rs.3000/- via NEFT as a Thanksgiving to Fr. Agnel for the maintenance and daily requirement of Balbhavan boys.

Rabia J Khan, Mira road

We are pleased to sponsor monthly an amount of Rs.1250/- towards the mini Sponsorship of Balbhavan boy.

Fr. Agnels Blessings

THANKSGIVING FOR GIFT OF A CHILD

SAFE DELIVERY OF JANET D'SOUZA.
DOMINIC & MILAGRIN LOPES - BANDRA

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS IN BUSINESS

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS IN BUSINESS
AND MEDICAL CLEARANCE.
SANJAN D'MELLO - VIRAR

REQUEST FOR HEALING

GRATEFUL TO VEN. FR. AGNEL FOR
SPECIAL HEALING
SHARON D'SOUZA - ANDHERI

THANKSGIVING FOR HAPPY HOLIDAYS

OUR FAMILY IS PLEASED TO THANK VEN. FR.
AGNEL FOR THE GIFT OF GIVING US
MEMORIES OF A HAPPY HOLIDAY.
CLAYTON & CINDY MIRANDA - BANDRA

THANKSGIVING FOR GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING

WE WISH TO THANK FR. AGNEL FOR GOOD
HEALTH & WELL-BEING OF FAMILY MEMBERS.
A DEVOTEE - MUMBAI

WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS WE THANK FR. AGNEL
FOR GOOD HEALTH.
ANTHONY DROSE - KHARGHAR

SUCCESS IN CAREER & EXAMINATIONS

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO . ST. JUDE, ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER, ST. ANTHONY, FR. AGNEL &
DIVINE MERCY FOR SUCCESS & COMPLETION
OF MASTERS IN AERO DYNAMICS
JOYCE FERNANDES- BANDRA

WE PRAY TO FR. AGNEL AND SEEK HIS
INTERCESSION FOR CLEARING C.A. EXAMS,
GOOD HEALTH OF BABY DUE IN NOVEMBER,
PROSPERITY & SUCCESS TO OUR LITTLE SISTER &
GOOD HEALTH TO OUR PARENTS.
RENZO JOMON CHANGENKENY, JYOTSNA

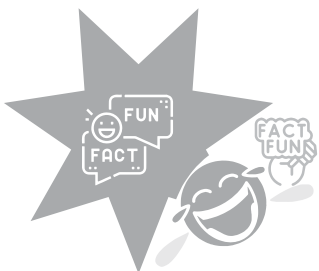
QUIZ ANSWERS!

FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF INDIA

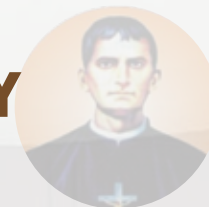
1. QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT
2. SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE
3. SARDAR VALLABHAI PATEL
4. BAL GANGADHAR TILAK
5. ARUNA ASAF ALI

RIDDLE ME...

1. GARBAGE VAN
2. CANDLE
3. ARE YOU ASLEEP?
4. THE FUTURE
5. THERE IS NO THIRD STOREY



OUT OF THEIR BOUNTY



25

Sijo John	Kerala	50000	Maxcy Francisco Simoes	Pune	2000	M.d. Mathai	Kerela	1000
Infanta D'Souza	Mumbai	25000	Mathew P. Mathew	Kerela	2000	Hiren Gala	Dombivli	1000
Joseph Kumar	Mumbai	17000	Isabel Hendricks.	Tamil Nadu	2000	Mary Antony	Kerela	1000
Judie Regina	Chhattisgarh	15000	Attely Anto Kuttikadan.	Thane	2000	Johnson Peter Jangul	Palghar	1000
Meena Thakkar	Mumbai	14000	Princeton	Mumbai	2000	Flossy Soares	Thane	1000
Joseph Chettiar	Mumbai	12000	Sharon Amelia Dabreo	Bandra	2000	Mary D'souza	Mumbai	1000
Sajeevu Mathew	Kerala	10000	Arjasp R. Elavia	Mumbai	2000	Aruna Fernando	Tamil Nadu	1000
Maniben Waghele	Gujrat	10000	Prafulla Dave	Mumbai	1750	Preeti Rebello	Mumbai	700
Sonal Palaka	India	10000	Dhruti Parikh	Mumbai	1503	Yvonne Bout	Pune	600
Gregory M. Pillay	Pune	10000	Thomas T Punnen	Kerela	1500	Lume Savarimuthu	Tamil Nadu	600
Swimmy David.	Mumbai	10000	Siju Thengil	Mumbai	1313	Ernest Felix Tuscolo	Mumbai	550
Venisa & Abhishek D'souza	Mumbai	10000	Dimple Lloyd Pereira	Mumbai	1250	Surekha Devendra Patole	Mumbai	550
D'souza And Associates	Mumbai	8000	Rabia J Khan	Mumbai	1250	Mathew Kurian.	Bangalore	501
Techno Products.	Chennai	6000	Premilla Verdes	Mumbai	1250	Mohit Ajay Sampat	Mumbai	501
Subramaniam R. Huf	Mumbai	5250	Ambrose Monis	Karnataka	1200	Chandulal Mange	Thane	500
Sonali S Amonkar	Mumbai	5100	Monica D'souza	Pune	1200	Ruth William Gonsalves	Palghar	500
Pooja S Amonkar	Mumbai	5100	Kimaya Subramaniam	Mumbai	1001	Abhishek Sudhir Parab	Mumbai	500
Rajendra Kantilal Parikh.	Mumbai	5001	Vijay Bhimiji Solanki	Gujrat	1001	Lipson Johnson Kemu	Mumbai	500
Dr Niket Shastri	Gujrat	5000	Jeet Vyas	Mumbai	1001	Bhargavi Raykar	Mumbai	500
Blessy/theo Martin Parmar	Mumbai	5000	Jennifer Pereira	Palghar	1000	Manju Panchal	Mumbai	500
Ronald M.fernandes.	Oman	5000	Revin & Rion Pattar	Mumbai	1000	Rohit Vijay Ament	Mumbai	500
Vivian Nicholas D'cunha	Palghar	5000	Haridas C.p	Thane	1000	Anjana Biswas	Kolkata	500
Michelle Chirag Parmar.	Mumbai	5000	Priyanka,Dehria & P. Pandya	Palghar	1000	Nidhi H Jasani	Mumbai	500
Anandiben V Parmar	Gujrat	5000	Geet Pujara	Thane	1000	Jomy J. Joseph	Karnataka	500
Paul Mathai.	Bangalore	5000	Hemangi Prasad Navi	Mumbai	1000	Celine Leonard D'silva	Palghar	500
Geeta Naik.	Mumbai	5000	Sairus J. Rangoonwala	Mumbai	1000	Supriya	Mumbai	500
Sharon Gonsalves	Mumbai	5000	Ignatius Moses Noronha	Mumbai	1000	Rockhenry Chettiar	Thane	500
Jacob Puthur	Kerela	5000	Sabina Correia & Fly	Thane	1000	P. Sequeira	Palghar	500
Carmen D'costa	Mumbai	3000	Maria Santhana Arputharaj	Tamil Nadu	1000	Jyoti Khote	Mumbai	500
Suresh S. Sudarshan	Mumbai	3000	Samson Leon Anthony Rosario	Thane	1000	Jay Soni	Mumbai	500
Betty Joseph	Kerala	3000	Rito Dennis D' Souza	Mumbai	1000	Ishita Chirag Parmar	Gujrat	500
Rija Anna Francis	Kerela	3000	A.santhappan.	Tamil Nadu	1000	Cavin And Maria Soans	Gujrat	500
Nayan,Megha,Aarav Thar	Mumbai	2501	Unmisha Bhatt	Mumbai	1000	Solphin Macwin Fernandes	Palghar	500
Lucy D'souza	Mumbai	2500	Aditi M. Doshi	Mumbai	1000	Stanly & Lita D'souza	Mumbai	500
Fransquinha Fernandes	Mumbai	2500	Christine Pereira	Mumbai	1000	Sandesh Luji	Uttan	500
Marian Fabian D'souza	Mumbai	2273	Sabu K Philip	Kerala	1000	Priime Maark	Mumbai	500
Agnelo Kemu	Mumbai	2000	Harsh Rajendra Shukla	Mumbai	1000	Kalpna Ramesh Parkhe	Pune	500
Vijay Rao	Palghar	2000	Stephen Manuel Noronha	Mumbai	1000	John Baptist	Chennai	500
Vijay And Kalavati Rao	Palghar	2000	Parag Ved	Mumbai	1000	Victor R	Tamil Nadu	500
Omana Varghese	Kerela	2000	Arun D'souza	Mumbai	1000	Maria Ferdin A	Tamil Nadu	500
Anita H Noronha	Thane	2000	Shanvi Garea	Palghar	1000	Agnella Abraham	Mumbai	500
Darragh Smail & Co.India	Kerla	2000	Anthony Thomson	Kerala	1000	George Joseph Parakal	Kerela	500
Jinal Patel	Mumbai	2000	Jefferson Aloishias Saldanha	Mumbai	1000	Niranjana M Amolik	Ahmednagar	500
Sangita G Patel	Mumbai	2000	Benedict Antony Dcruz	Kerela	1000	Machado & Sons Pvt Ltd	Tamil Nadu	500
Fittech Industries	Mumbai	2000	John Thomas	Kerela	1000	Amrith Raj/ R.S.Raju	Tamil Nadu	500
Ankit G Patel	Mumbai	2000	Georgie K. George	Kerela	1000	Nilima Sadekar	Mumbai	500
Ghanshyam K Patel	Mumbai	2000	Rockhenry A Chettiar	Mumbai	1000	Naveen D'Souza	Mumbai	500
Saurar Dalvi	Mumbai	2000	Arokaviyay Chettiar	Kalyan	1000	Annakutty Thomas	Kerela	500
Suhasini Parmar	Gujrat	2000	Freejo Vincent M	Kerela	1000	Arun Jadhav	Kolhapur	500
Sanjay Sharma	Navi Mumbai	2000	Lawrence Savio Noronha	Mumbai	1000	Anthony Vincent Xavier	Mumbai	500

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One of the smallest organs in the body is the tongue, and yet there has been so much that has happened in the world because of it. In Proverbs 18:21 it says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

I looked at my tongue in the mirror this morning.

"You don't look very powerful," I told it.

It did not reply, which was just as well, because if it had, I might have spent the rest of the morning arguing with myself.

The tongue is a tiny thing. It cannot lift a suitcase, push a stalled car, or open a stubborn pickle jar. Yet it can start a war, destroy a marriage, end a friendship, ruin a reputation, or reduce a confident person to tears.

One sentence can do what a hammer sometimes cannot.

"You will never succeed!"

A child hears those words and carries them for thirty years.

"I don't trust you anymore!"

A relationship that took years to build suddenly begins to collapse.

"Did you hear what she did?"

And gossip puts on its running shoes and races through the neighbourhood before truth has even found its spectacles.

That is the power of death in the tongue.

But the same tongue can also bring life.

"I believe in you."

Suddenly, the child who was ready to give up tries once more.

"I forgive you."

A door that had been locked for years begins to open.

"I am sorry."

Three simple words enter a wounded heart and begin repairing what pride had broken.

"You are not alone."

And someone standing at the edge of despair takes a step back.

Words do not possess magical power. We cannot say, "I am a millionaire," fifty times and expect the bank manager to telephone us with congratulations. But words shape attitudes, influence decisions, strengthen relationships, and inspire action. What we repeatedly say can slowly create the atmosphere in which we live.

The second part of the verse says that those who love the tongue will eat its fruit. In other words, our words eventually return to feed us. Speak bitterness every day, and bitterness will sit at your table. Speak cruelty, and people will begin avoiding your company. Speak encouragement, honesty, kindness, and grace, and trust will grow around you.

Perhaps before speaking, we should ask, "Will my words wound or heal? Will they create fear or courage? Will they spread bitterness or bring peace?"

The tongue may be tiny, but heaven has placed enormous responsibility upon it.

So today, use it carefully. Somewhere, someone may be waiting for one word from you to bury their hope or breathe life into it..!

International YOGA day REPORT



Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School - Pune, celebrated International Yoga Day on 21st June, 2026 in the school premises with great enthusiasm and energy.

The programme was conducted in the morning on the school lawn where students and teachers actively participated in the yoga session.

The celebration began with a brief introduction about the importance of International Yoga Day and how yoga helps in maintaining a healthy body, calm mind and disciplined lifestyle. Students were informed about the benefits of practising yoga regularly, such as improving concentration, flexibility, balance and overall well-being.

Under the guidance of the teachers students performed various yoga asanas, breathing exercises

and simple meditation techniques. The atmosphere was peaceful, positive and full of enthusiasm. All the students participated with interest and followed the instructions sincerely.

The celebration of International Yoga Day at Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School was a meaningful and refreshing experience for everyone. It helped students understand the importance of yoga in daily life and encouraged them to adopt healthy habits for a better future.

Physical Education Department
Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School.

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RELIGIOUS
ICONS

RELIGIOUS ICONS

An icon is a symbol, image, or representation of something. In religious art, especially in Eastern Orthodox Christianity, an icon is a holy painting of Jesus, Mary or a saint, usually painted on a small wooden panel and used as an object of veneration. Many beautiful icons, painted in the Byzantine style of are displayed in Eastern Orthodox Churches.

ANCIENT ICON OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

In the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome is an ancient icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where she is venerated as a saviour, a protector, and a healer of the Roman people. A special feast of the dedication of this Basilica is celebrated on the 5th August in the Catholic Church.

According to tradition this icon was copied from an original painting of St. Luke, and appeared miraculously in a church, and was brought to Rome, where it has been greatly venerated by several Popes. In 2013, on 'World Youth Day,' in Brazil, Pope Francis offered prayers before the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Basilica, for the Youth and for Peace. He said Mary is a mother, who is concerned about the health of her children. She helps us to grow and face life, and be free. On Jesus' death the apostle John took Mother Mary into his home, (Jn19:27) so we too must invite Mary into our homes, and our lives.

Br. Pardo, a Spanish Jesuit brother, painstakingly created many beautiful icons on wood, which are displayed in a private museum on the premises of St. Anne's Church, Mazagon, Mumbai. In the church itself, is an elaborately decorated icon of the Vladimir Mother of God.

Exhibitions were held by him in Mumbai, and at the Alliance at Bangalore, where the icons were sold to the public to popularise their use. for private devotion. Today icons can be seen displayed on the walls in many homes.

Norma Kamath