

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF VAILANKANNI | ISSUE #2

WELLSPRING

parish magazine of hope and love



MINISTRY FOR THE AGED

Spreading Christmas Cheer among less fortunate elderly.
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MEET THE TOPPERS!

Our parish children have done rather well in their Board exams.
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OUR HOLY FAMILIES

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PARISH DIARY

Baptisms

1. Sanjib Ranjan Prasad
2. Kaelyn Grace Bearder
3. Ray Joshua Thompson
4. Seema Gurung
5. Cynthia Carol Mcatee
6. Neha Gupta
7. Mammy Saha
8. Anirban Sengupta

Funerals

1. Inez Cramer 72 years
2. Raymond Carter 73 years
3. Aanjan Das 45 years
4. John Michael Beaucasin 83 years
- Herbert George 74 years
- Anthony James 80 years
- Liu Fook Thien 74 years
- Maureen Ghose 68 years
- Helen Gasper 78 years
- Clement George 74 years

New comers

1. Lincoln Salvador & Christina Salvador
2. Late Donald Smith & Alexis Jennifer Smith
3. Kyle Smith & Rakhi Smith
4. Joseph Gomes & Sukla Gomes
5. Oliver Francis Bergeon & Brenda Bergeon
6. Brian Dominic Bearder Anima & Saha Bearder
7. Late Victor Raju & Rupa Magdaline Raju
8. Na & Cynthia T. George
9. Parimal Baru & Catherine Baru
10. Trevor Joseph D' Rosario & Maria Espernca

Weddings

1. John David Sardar weds Sharmila Mondol
2. Uttam Mondal weds Lydia Grasmilda D'gama
3. Michael Biswas weds Sumita Theresa Rosario
4. Floyd Edward Mcatee weds Seema Gurung
5. Samiran Biswas weds Mary Ann Gomes
6. Justin Nicholas Smith weds Maria Joseph
7. Dominic Chrestien weds Neha Gupta



Hi, am the owner of a Rosetta's wedding store at 68 Bondel Road, Kol 19- this is a stitching unit!

I did not let the pandemic dampen the spirits of my employees during the Pandemic, instead we found newer ways to generate revenue and pay our staff, we here at the store make beautiful masks, most of them are dyed at home by me, then stitched by my tailors, each mask start from 200, you could check my work on Instagram @rosetta.gomez79 !

I also have studied and done research on tarot readings , you could book your slots for the sessions-

Feel free to hit me up on [9830179059](https://www.instagram.com/rosetta.gomez79)

@ROSETTA.GOMEZ79



Wishing my dearest hubby a fabulous 50th Birthday.

I love you with every thing I have, and I promise to keep loving you that way until the end of time. I hope you have the most beautiful birthday of your life today.

God Bless you with good health & happiness always.
LOVE FOREVER - YOUR WIFE.

27th December - Wishing Shashank and Maria on their anniversary from mummy and Papa



WISHING THE HOLT COUPLE A VERY HAPPY SILVER ANNIVERSARY. WISH THE SILVER TURNS INTO GOLD.

FROM DHANALAXMI & TWINKLE

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Photographer:

Twinkle Anthony

"Christmas is all about doing a little something extra for someone." - Charles M. Schulz.

Like rightly mentioned in the quote above, the season of Christmas brings out the best in every individual. This season ensures that people automatically feel the need to give more than receive and there is nothing more beautiful in life than that feeling of being a giver than a taker. This season of joy compels each one to find happiness in little things and appreciate the same.

Inspite of being physically distant and apart during these Covid times, each member of the parish is always connected by heart and spirit. A special mention to the parish priest and his team for their efforts to do their bits to make this Christmas better for the parishioners in every way possible.

Though the journey this year has been tough, let's all continue to do what we do best- hope. Let's hope things get better and next year brings each and every individual happiness, peace and luck.

Wishing all the parishioners a really **Merry Christmas and a great 2021** from the Wellspring team.

Dhanalaxmi Kaliram | EDITOR, WELLSPRING



OUR HOLY FAMILIES

Faith during the pandemic

COVER STORY

Where was Christ during COVID 19? The global pandemic that struck the world about 10 months ago has had a very grave impact on all our lives. In such trying times, it is easy for many to lose their faith in God, even while spending time locked down with their families.

At our parish, happily, many people who have made it a point to hold on to their faith and to stay connected to the church and to the Lord despite a trying situation with no Mass or Holy Communion.

Sarahlyn Cooke asked a few parishioners how they did it...



"During these times of Covid, it has been really difficult for me to build my relationship with God. However, as time went by, I finally made the decision to have some quiet time with God, as I pray and read my Bible. Reading my Bible has really allowed me get to know about Jesus and the things that he did. I have learned how to implement them in my life too. A few of them include, waking up very early in the morning and praying, being patient with the people around me, and focusing on my priorities while I keep God in the first and the highest position in my life"

- **Melanie Savyell**

"I attended online Holy Mass with my family. I participated in several online games, contests and activities that were conducted for the youth of the parish.

I also wrote an article for the welcoming"

- **Bridget Gomes**

"Not being able to attend Mass or receive The Holy Eucharist has never happened before in our lives. Now because of technology, we were able to attend mass online with the help of our phones, computers and TVs, even though the actual service we couldn't attend because of the pandemic.

When things were starting to gradually normalise, having been given the choice to attend mass once a week was a golden opportunity for us all to attend mass.

I made sure that I attended mass and felt really good after so long.

Now since we can attend mass more regularly, we should feel really privileged. Without registering our names and wait for our chance to attend Mass.

One Day I was asked to attend Sunday evening mass every week. I have to volunteer and help out with the readings, hymns, offerings and ensure that social distancing is maintained in the church along with others. I agreed to do God's work. I feel so blessed to become closer to Jesus day by day through prayer."

- **Bruce D'vaz**

"While we were all locked in our homes due to the outbreak of Covid-19, I made it a point to sit with my parents and recite the holy rosary together at home, every evening. We participated in the online masses every Sunday. This helped us grow in faith and to stay close to God even in these tough times."

- **Valentina Dsouza**

"I have been attending virtual mass and reciting the rosary every day. I have also started reading the Bible every other day."

- **Nikita Burbidge**

Faith: I have leaned on the good old value of faith instilled in me by the church to navigate me through this crisis. I have had faith in the college faculty in their ability to ensure that our graduation would be completed smoothly. My faith has paid off, the college ensured we graduated without any hassles.

Gratitude: This pandemic has allowed me to be grateful to have a family that can provide for me in times of crisis, put food on the table and a roof over my head. This pandemic has been a disaster for families across the globe economically so i am thankful to the almighty for helping me and my family.

The strength of prayers: I have started praying regularly since the lockdown began. It has allowed to reconnect with our Lord and also give me strength in these tough times."

- **Mahene S. Chatterjee**

Covid-19 has been a brought along a bad time for all of us. Fortunately for me, I've had the privilege to be connected to Church during this bad time.

I've made it a point to attend the Holy Mass at least once a week.

I've been attending choir practices in church.

I attend the Daily Rosary.

- **Justin Freedom**

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Chance for another look at Life

■ Twinkle Anthony

"Distance makes the heart grow fonder" - that's exactly what happened in my case for the past year when I left my church, family and city to pursue my higher education. The distance made me appreciate every little thing that I took for granted.

It was a tough decision to make but as they say, nothing comes easy in life and so, I had to take this decision of leaving my comfort zone in order to get my career sorted. From being this active youth in the parish to letting go of everything just for the sake of my education, it has been hard and boy, how I've missed church and everything related to it and thanks to Covid, things just got worse and suddenly it was not just me but everyone who was missing church since we all got distant physically this time but thanks to the efforts of the archdiocese of Kolkata, we were able to watch live streams of the mass and other programs which helped us fill the void.

But again, I must thank Covid once again for getting me back to the city and finally reuniting me with everyone and everything and letting me do things normally this festive season, of course following all safety protocols. Its a pleasure to be singing for

the Lord and spreading joy through music and I am grateful to Mr Nikhil Dsouza and my choir members for making me feel at home after a year. I'm extremely elated to be back in action and to roll. It was a year that definitely didn't go too well for all of us but I'm sure this year has made all of us strong mentally and prepared us for everything that is thrown our way.

I'm sure the year ahead of us will just get better for each one of us and will help us make up for everything we've lost in the past. Here's wishing one and all lots of love and luck for 2021. Keep praying and slaying.



The author

EASY RECIPE FOR KULKULS

CHRISTMAS TREATS

■ Bidisha Chowdhury

Ingredients

- 1 pound/1/2 kg all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon cold butter (cubed)
- 2 large eggs
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 2 quarts oil (or enough for deep-frying)
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 to 4 tablespoons water

Method

In a bowl, mix the flour and baking powder well. Add the butter a little at a time, mixing gently until the butter is pea-sized. Beat the eggs in a separate bowl and add them to the flour-butter mix. Add the powdered sugar and coconut milk and mix into a soft dough.

Form the dough into small sized balls. Grease the back of a fork with some oil. Flatten the ball of dough and press it onto the back of the fork, forming a rectangle the length of the back of the fork tines. Starting at the bottom end of the fork, roll the dough up the tines and off the fork and into a tight curl. The end result will be a tube-like curl with the ridges from the fork on it. Place the curl on a plate and work the remaining dough similarly until it is all used up. Heat the oil in a deep, heavy-bottomed pan over medium heat. When hot, fry the kulkuls, making

sure to turn them often until they are a light golden brown color. Drain and cool on paper towels. Put the granulated sugar and water in a separate pan and boil until the sugar melts.



LETTER TO SANTA

Dear Santa,

Ain't we all tired of talking about the pandemic? I know I am, so what do we talk about instead? How about your naughty and nice list? This year I have a feeling I might not feature on either because this year, I have just survived you know and that is remarkable. Such a pesky topic this pandemic, always managing to slither its way into the conversation. How rude!

The other day my neighbour asked me if I had any plans I said, "Sure I always have plans, for example, I have plans to drive my mother crazy this afternoon and order 'garbage' from outside and fill my tummy with it". Pure deliciousness I say. But somehow my answer didn't seem to please her (I mean my neighbour. We are still talking about her.) So she took the hint and asked me like one would ask a child a simple question. "Do-you-have-any-plans-for-Christmas?" emphasizing on each word.

Like light flooding a room, the meaning of her question became clear as day to me and I said "Sure, I have plans to eat and sleep all day long. You see I am a good girl and by extension a good daughter so I will give my mother the rest she deserves and order in from my favourite restaurant." (Here I gave her my most charming smile) But apparently these days smiles don't work. My smile wasn't good enough to blow away the cobwebs forming in her mind so she looked at me piteously (I'm sure the pity in her glance was intended for my mother but we'll never know. Consider it a Bermuda Trianglesque mystery) and asked, "Does-your-mother-know-of-your-plans?"

"Of course she does." I said
"And did she agree?" she asked

"Can't really say" I said "She was asleep when I told her." At this point she suddenly remembered that she had left something to boil on the stove and needed to check on the boiled status of the said 'something'. (Again how rude!) and that is how our tete-a-tete ended.

So coming back to my list for you this year, don't worry I won't be asking for world peace or expensive gadgets instead I ask you for a miracle. The miracle of my mother finding out about my plans on Christmas Day and not losing her cool. Such a simple task!

Yours truly,

Miss Goody Always Hungry



PARISH HAPPENINGS

Christ the King feast celebrated with Triduum

■ Sanjay Kevin Ghosh

19 November 2020 - Triduum, a three day preparation for the feast of the King of the Universe was observed 19 -22 November at the recommendation of the Archbishop.

Parish Priest, Fr Orson Wells, explained Christ Kingship as "Just as the Sun is the light for the world and it's warmth is useful for humanity, Our Lord's light shines upon the earth and brings life.

Fr. Orson Wells, Fr. Sebastian and Fr. Susil Murmu explained the importance of the Feast through the Gospel of St. Luke chapter 19 and 20 with the Gospel of Mark on the 22 November, the Feast Day.

The Triduum was very enriching and we are blessed that our church is open for the faithful.

Feast of Our Lady of Divine Providence was also celebrated on the 19 November.

Cheer for Elders

■ Dhanalaxmi Kaliram

19 December 2020 - *No one has ever become poor by giving* - parish Ministry for the Aged, during the pandemic managed to spread cheer amongst the 30 old beneficiaries, while maintaining all safety protocols for the vulnerable seniors.

Fr Sebastian celebrated a special Mass for the seniors. Rice, dal, cookies, blanket and a pound of cake were given to each of them, welcome gifts in this season.

We are thankful to Fr Orson for the assistance and assurance.



Nativity of BVM celebrated

■ June Coelho

08 November 2020 - The birthday of our Mother Mary passed away in a quiet way in a Parish known for its huge celebration, the crowds, the flowers and a huge line of devotees thronging the premises were missing this year.

Mother Mary this year wanted the celebration in our hearts and in the warmth of our homes. People came together maintaining social distances in homes to recite the Novena. Many of the parishioners telecasted online the recitation of the Rosary and the Novena prayers. There were many people who for the first time participated in the prayers and Rosary. Even as on date Rosary is still continues to be said in many homes. The blessings of our Mother always remains with us.

SVP distributes Christmas Care packages

■ Clemintine Miller

12 December 2020 - The SVP Members gave out their Christmas rations and a gift of Rs 300/- accompanying the blankets, snack packets, cup cakes, chocolates and soft drinks were distributed among 25 beneficiaries.

While thanking benefactors, SVP requests donations continue, as more of our own people are coming to them for help. Help in medicines and education are especially needed, and SVP wants to provide this assistance.



Advent Wreaths

made by the Children of Class V

Sunday School:

Mikhael, Jade, Renella and Tynselle



Faith Formation begins with parents as the first teachers of the child. The child prays with the parents at home and goes to church with them. The child is then introduced to the Sunday classes. Sunday school at Our Lady of Vallankanni parish is well organised with a dedicated band of teachers. All this took a drastic change with Covid 19 chipping in and put a stop to catechism class for a while.

With most organisations and institutions going online, so Sunday school also went online. Initially, the response was not very good, with only a few children. Teachers put in their best efforts. Classes were taken on WhatsApp video calling, Zoom and Google Meet. Children were sent movies, catechism video links that were good resource material for the children.

As noticed the little ones' class had a better response than the older ones. This was because the parents were with the children helping them as the class was on.

The children who attended class were excited, attentive, eager to learn. Many children were shy and did not participate. May be not getting used to the new system. Many children used to share pictures and experiences in their groups throughout the week.

During this period of time tests were taken and Quiz organised. These classes also aimed at the formation of the children in the experience of the values of God's kingdom in themselves and their families.

Jesus said: "The Kingdom of God is within You". Let us pray that the kingdom of God flourish in each child and they may live as instruments of God's reign of peace, joy and love.

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<http://www.facebook.com/COLVail/>

A GIVING CHRISTMAS

By Rose Doss

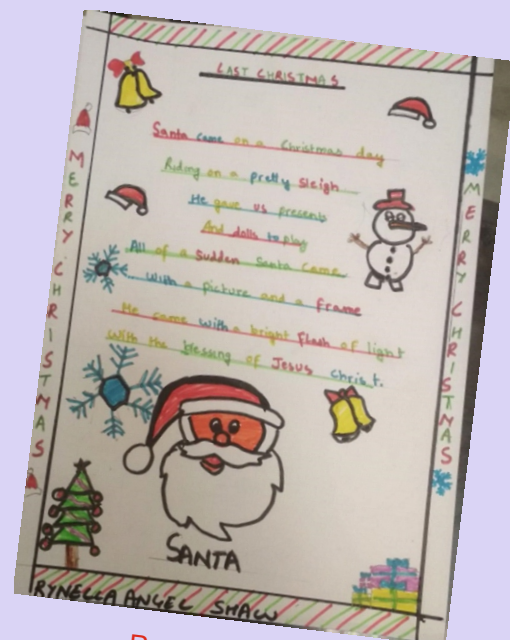
Eric, a young college boy along with his friends, Jack and Shawn, celebrate Christmas Day as a day just to receive presents and party with friends and family, unaware of the real and true essence of the day. In the light of Christmas Eve, desperate to earn some money, Eric takes the job of playing Santa at a mall and clicking pictures with children. Taking his job a little too seriously he convinces Jack and Shawn to join him at work playing Santa's elves. He's not a very good Santa at the beginning as he acts oddly towards the children, having his own fun.

As more children begin to drop by for pictures, looking at their joyous faces Eric begins to instead offer them presents. But when a group of orphaned children come, he becomes very generous so much so that he buys more presents with his own money along with Shawn and Jack to distribute them among the children. After running out on all their money, Eric Jack and Shawn end up stealing presents from their own homes to give the orphans.

Later that night, a 7-year-old orphan, Tommy goes back to Eric believing that he is the real Santa and gives back his present only to ask for something else instead. Tommy being so innocent asks for his parents. This touches Eric and saddens him. Having no power over the situation Eric takes a moment talking to God, expressing his feeling of gratitude for everything he has ever got in life and the heart-breaking truth that not every child is blessed like he is. With this feeling Eric takes Tommy to his home to spend Christmas with his family resulting in making Tommy feeling happy and loved.

In the end, with his good heart it is then that Eric realizes that the joy of giving with a pure intention is the true essence and true meaning of Christmas.

Sunday School Kreative Kids
(Class V)



Rynella Shaw



Tynesell Burnett

CHRISTMAS IS THE TIME WHEN JESUS WAS BORN. HE WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM. WHEN HE WAS NINE YEARS OLD, HE HELPED HIS FATHER JOSEPH THE CARPENTER AND HIS MOTHER MARY. ONE DAY HE WAS WITH HIS PARENTS AND HE WENT INTO A TEMPLE AND TOLD STORIES TO THE PRIESTS. HIS PARENTS WERE FRIGHTENED THAT WHERE THEIR SON WAS.

AFTER THREE DAYS THEY FOUND JESUS IN THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM. WE MUST ALSO HELP OUR PARENTS ESPECIALLY DURING THIS COVID TIME AND PRAY TO BABY JESUS SO THAT THE WHOLE WORLD BE CURED OF THIS PANDEMIC. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

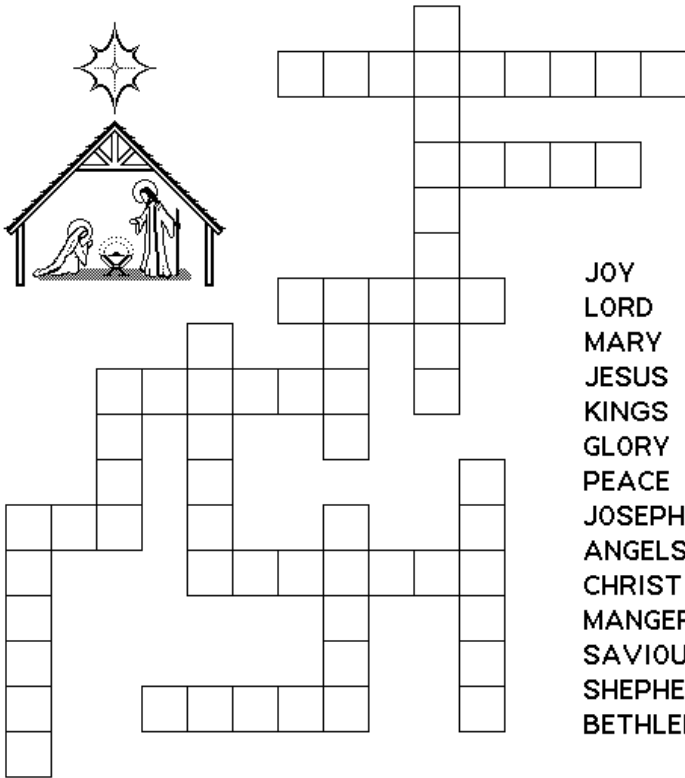
Victor Joseph D'silva



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from the Publisher and Team of **WELLSPRING!**

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.



JOY
LORD
MARY
JESUS
KINGS
GLORY
PEACE
JOSEPH
ANGELS
CHRIST
MANGER
SAVIOUR
SHEPHERDS
BETHLEHEM

Parish Toppers 2020

Wellspring team is happy to feature the names and pictures of the students who have achieved 80 percent and above in the Board examinations. We definitely are sure there are more students who may not have shared the details with the teams but we wish you all a very bright future. **Our congratulations goes out to all .**

No exam is easy, and needs continued hard work, commitment and a little luck and yet at times we do not meet the grades or standards. Our best wishes to all for the our students who may not have secured such results but that does not stop our team to wish you good luck for more excellent achievement in the future. May God bless you all.



Melanie Mary Savyell



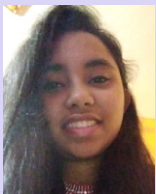
Akshita Angelina Philipps



Anoushka Bramblebee



Vivienne Judith Mathias



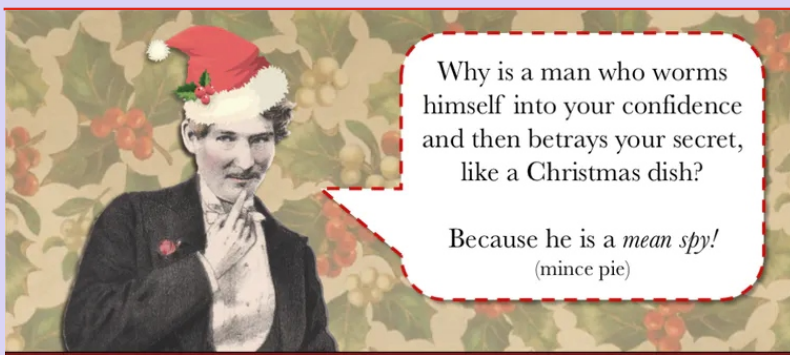
Bridget Gomes



Shantanu Stephen Chetri



Sumana Crispiana Naskar



Nativity of BVM

Melanie Savyell & Mahene Chatterjee

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary refers to the birth of Mary by her mother Saint Anne. This feast day is celebrated each year on the eighth of September. Usually, it is the custom of the church to celebrate the feast day of a saint on the date of their death as this is truly their "*die natalis*", the day remembered as their birth into everlasting happiness. Mary, however, entered this world sinless through the privilege of the Immaculate Conception and is the firstborn of the redeemed. Her nativity is a cause for great joy as it is considered the "dawn of our salvation" as Pope Paul VI wrote in the document, *Marialis Cultus* in 1972.

We see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings has joined with God in his creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world. This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love. If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning. Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth, we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large.

It is with this reflection in mind that the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated at such a large scale each year. Lakhs of people travel across the world to visit Her shrines and pay homage to Her. Praying the rosary in groups is an important custom on this day. Parishioners of several Churches garland the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and parade while singing and praying to Her, simultaneously. People bring offerings in the forms of fruits or offer thanksgiving masses too. In some cities, Christians celebrate the feast of Nativity of Mary as an eight-day event. It is a solemn remembrance of the birth of Mother Mary during which believers rigorously participate in fasting, praying and charitable activities for the eight days from September 1 through 8.

This year, however, the celebration of this Feast Day will be held at a much smaller scale due to the unfortunate Corona virus pandemic. It is thereby necessary for all of us to follow social distancing guidelines while celebrating the feast this year.

Here's wishing everyone a very happy Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady!

