



Newsletter of Sunday School,
St. Mary's Orthodox Syrian Church, Pune.
mail to: sundayschoolsmoscp@gmail.com



Journey with Jesus

15 August 2022 Edition-9

From the Editor's Desk



With the abundant grace of God, we resumed offline classes for our Sunday School after 2 years of the pandemic period. Close to 100 students from Tiny tots to Class X excitedly welcomed the much awaited reopening. We prayed and wished for

"More Love...More Power....More of YOU in our Lives..."

Claps and Smiles,

Birthday wishes and Chocolate Distribution...

First time anxieties and excitement of our new Tiny Tots..

Hot Cup of Tea, Spicy Vada pavs and Crispy Samosas...
are all back with renewed vigour...and now we all sing together...

"With a grateful heart, with a song of praise..."

We THANK YOU LORD...

We just want to THANK YOU LORD...

We also thank our Management Committee and parents for their continued support throughout the previous years. We continue to seek your active involvement and support in the coming years.



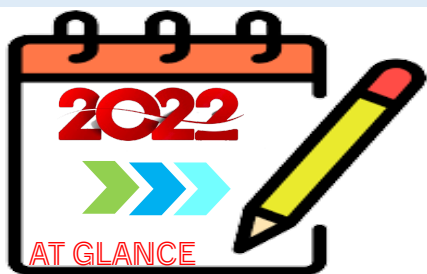
Annual Academic Exams-2021

This year also a centralized online exam was conducted by Outside Kerala Region (OKR) for Class XII & X, 7 students (5 Regular and 2 Private) attempted the exam from our church. We are proud that we had 100% results this year too. Class X- 2022 batch had the entire learning in an online mode. The classes were conducted on Google Meet with the help of power point presentations and mock exams were taken via Google Forms.



Pics (L-R). Tanya S. (XII), Bijin V. (X), Alvin J. (X), Joemon V. I. (X), Jonah B. (X), Nathanael G. (X), Reyhan P. (X)

We also had 1 private student from Class XII who appeared for the exam. With adequate preparations, our students faced the exams and achieved good results. **We congratulate all the students for their successful completion of Class X & XII**



Drawing Corner

Esther Sara Mathew
(Class 1)



Onam Celebration	18 th - Sept
Annual OVBS 'ABIDE IN GOD'- St John 15:4	23 rd to 26 th - Oct
Arts Compt- Unit	27 th & 28 th - Aug
Arts Compt- District	17 th & 25 th - Sep
Arts Compt- Diocese	20 th -Nov
Annual Exam- X, XII	4 th Dec
Annual Exam - Rest	11 th Dec

2022 WE BOUNCED BACK TO NORMAL !!!

After 2 years of online Sunday school classes; post the May - mid term break on 6th June 2022, we started with Offline mode again. The reopening day was attended by the majority of the students. We celebrated the coming together with a host of events.



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13



Art is fun!

JESUS THROUGH MY LINES



Joann Binoj
(Class 2)



Emma Subin
(Class Beginner)



MY EXPERIENCE

Diocese Golden Jubilee Celebration Quiz Competition

For me, this quiz competition was more than winning or losing, it was about the experience. Studying the Bible, memorizing the points by making notes, going to a church 1 hour away without my parents and most importantly, facing this competition.

I came to know that a quiz like this would be held a few months back, at the time it felt super easy as there was plenty of time and I was in the dark about the portion. From our church Johan George and I signed up for the quiz. Time went by and I forgot about the competition. The week before the competition we had our Sunday school exams and I was busy with the studies for that.

The day after the exam (Monday) came and I was kindly reminded that there was a quiz competition the same weekend. I started panicking, not knowing what to do. "Should I quit? This is going to be too much on top of my school tests. I'm not going to have enough time" were the thoughts running through my head and then I was told about the portion, it only got worse. Like one does, I kept everything for the last minute and started on Friday evening for a competition that was on Sunday. I made extra questions and made notes along with the questions, Thankam Ma'am had prepared.

The competition was held at St.Mary's Orthodox Church- Pimpri from 4 pm on 24th July 2022. It went smoothly; we could answer whatever we prepared. There were a few questions especially from church affairs which we were not prepared with. Irrespective of our best efforts we didn't get the first prize; But our spirits were high; the learning was tremendous. The study of the Bible chapters Jonah and Gospel according to St. John gave us a new dimension of God's love and care and the big mission Jesus had in this world.

At the end of this exercise, I promised myself to participate in quiz more often and to relive this spiritual enrichment experience many times hereafter.



**Rachel Anna Anil
(Class 7)**

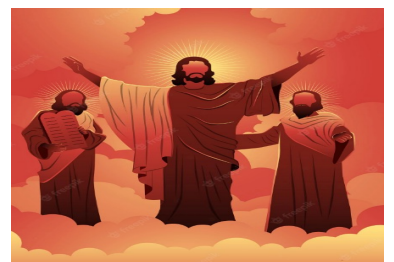


MY FAVOURITE BIBLE CHARACTER

ELIJAH -The Prophet of Fire



- Elijah means "'My God Is Yahweh'
- Elijah is the only person described in the Bible as returning to Horeb, after Moses and his generation had left Horeb several centuries ago
- Elijah was a Hebrew prophet who ranked with Moses, in saving the religion of Yahweh from being corrupted by the nature worship of Canaanite deity Baal
- He had a devoted assistant named Elisha who spent 8 years with him until he was lifted into the heavens.
- God performed many miracles through Elijah, including resurrection, bringing fire down from the sky, and entering heaven alive "by fire"
- Prophet Elijah did not die as people normally do, but he went up to heaven in a whirlwind!!



Prayer was his key strategy

*Bible New Testament makes clear that John the Baptist was "the Elijah" who was promised to come in Malachi 3:1; 4:5

*Elijah made an appearance during Jesus' transfiguration

My favorite Bible character from the Old Testament is **Prophet Elijah**, because he obeyed the Lord's command and believed in the Living God. He proved that Baal was not the real God and made people believe in Yahweh.

The miracle I liked the most is when God sent fire down and burnt up the sacrifice, the wood, and stones, scorched the earth and dried up the water.

Elijah was kind too. He asked the widow of Zarephath for a piece of bread, and she invited him to her home where she used her last bit of flour and oil to bake for him. The prophet then blessed the woman and her child and assured them that their supplies of flour and oil will never be diminished.. Again, when the same widow's son fell ill and died, Elijah brought him back to life by praying to the Lord.



**Evelyn Sujith
(Class 5)**



Samika Salu Sam
(Class 10)



IT'S NOT FAQ DEAR !!! WHO AM I ?

- I am a book from the Old Testament. I tell you stories of Israelites after the death of Moses...
- I was called 'Kochaipora' as a Kid...
- I was born in the city of Tarsus in Kilikya Province (Cilicia). My Hebrew name was Saul...
- I assisted St. Paul during his first missionary journey...
- I am the patron saint of India...

Answers: Joshua, Saint Gregorios of Parumala, St. Paul, Barnabas, St. Thomas.

MY TRAVELOGUE : Visit to Kuravilangad Church



Aimee Elsa Tom
(Class 6)

This is an old Marian pilgrim center of the Syro-Malabar Church located at Kuravilangad, Kottayam. I was so surprised and curious when my Ammachi told me that this is the holy land blessed with the first apparition of Virgin Mary and our fore-fathers belonged to this church. When I reached there, I saw a trail of steps leading to this beautiful church in the high ranges. There was a huge stone cross in-front of the church where devotees would come, pray and pour holy oil into the oil lamps around it. I also saw devotees carrying miniatures of ships.

Ammachi told me that the three-day lent is the main feast here and it is completed with the universally famous "Ship running" (Kappalottam). On the two sides of the cross there were statues of angels which made me feel that I was in holy presence. The first thing I noticed inside the church was the wooden ship used for Kappalottam. The church also has three gigantic bells which are considered as the biggest church bells in Asia. There is a miraculous spring at the east side of the church. It is believed that Virgin Mary, also known as Muthiyamma, appeared in front of a few children who were very hungry and thirsty.

She transformed stones into bread and generated this spring, to quench their hunger and thirst. People who drink water from this miracle spring attest that it has miraculous spiritual and physical healing powers. It was a very holy and divine experience for me.

POETRY CENTRAL

Charity, Charity

The Best That Has Ever Happened To Me.

Lucky me
I always give charity.

It always never has to be money
Food, clothes can also be charity
Lucky me
I always give charity.

What the right hand gives
The left-hand doesn't know
Charity can also
Be given to foes.

Charity for kids
Charity for men
Charity for women
The one who gives charity.



Joel Biju
(Class 7)

When Everything Fades Away

When everything fades away,
look into God's way.
We can look into God's way,
any hour of the day.

Do what God says –
You should do it all days
Look around everywhere,
God will always be there.

His power is so good,
it's stronger than any wood
God's power won't let you down,
until you get your victory crown.

When everything fades away,
look into God's way.
We can look into God's way,
any hour of the day!



Joel Allen
(Class 2)

BIDDING FAREWELL TO MY SUNDAY SCHOOL!

"As I am getting the last activity completed by my students, I am feeling nostalgic. It was almost 2 and half years ago God blessed me with an amazing opportunity to become a Sunday school teacher.

After being a student of 12 years at this Sunday school at SMOSC Pune, taking on a different role was a surreal experience. I cannot express in words how much this place has taught me. As a student I enjoyed Sunday school as I not only got to learn so much but it was my favourite time to spend with the lifelong friends I made at Church.

When I stepped into the role of a teacher, I always wanted to ensure the children have a bond with each other and build, nurture their friendships as well as gain knowledge.

Due to Covid I ironically spent only the first and last month as a Sunday School teacher in offline mode and rest was online. I taught second and third standard over the two years and I'm happy that I got to know Angel, Sandra, Johan, Basil, Noel, Jerome, Alina, Tisha, Ethan, Liam, Harsh, Steffin, Viaan, Ayden.. I got to play a part in teaching 14 little children and watch them grow. I will always remember you all. Learning in online mode is hard, even for me, I am amazed at how all the children managed it so well- Attending classes, Participating in Common Sessions and giving exams. I appreciate you all for being so cooperative and for teaching me so much in turn.

I am thankful I was given the responsibility to pass on some of the knowledge to these children. I am dearly going to miss seeing their smiling and inquisitive faces. One of the beautiful privileges of being a teacher is receiving Love - When a student comes up to you saying "Hi miss!" outside class, It warms my heart so much.

As I move on to another chapter of my life, I am sure that the children are in the safe hands of capable teachers. I wish them a beautiful journey ahead, full of learning and growth. Most people step out of Sunday school after 12th but it took me two more years!

Thank you again Sunday School for being the most cherished place for me.

Jennifer M. Daniel
(Teacher Class 3)



Drawing Time

BIBLE TAUGHT ME



Angel Mary Cherian
(Class 1)



Jonah 2: 2

"In my distress, O LORD, I called to you, and you answered me. From deep in the world of the dead I cried for help, and you heard me. "



Rhea Prashant
(Class 9)



Isaiah 40:26

Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing

Drawing Time

Mark 4:1-20

The Parable of the Sower



Meeval Shiju
(Class 1)



Mark 4: 1-20

The man represents God and the seed is His message. Just as a planted seed starts to grow, the word of God starts to deepen and grow within a person.



Luke 3:22

And the Holy Spirit came down upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven "You are my own dear son. I am pleased with you." "Thank you!!!"

Fiona Mathew
(Class 5)

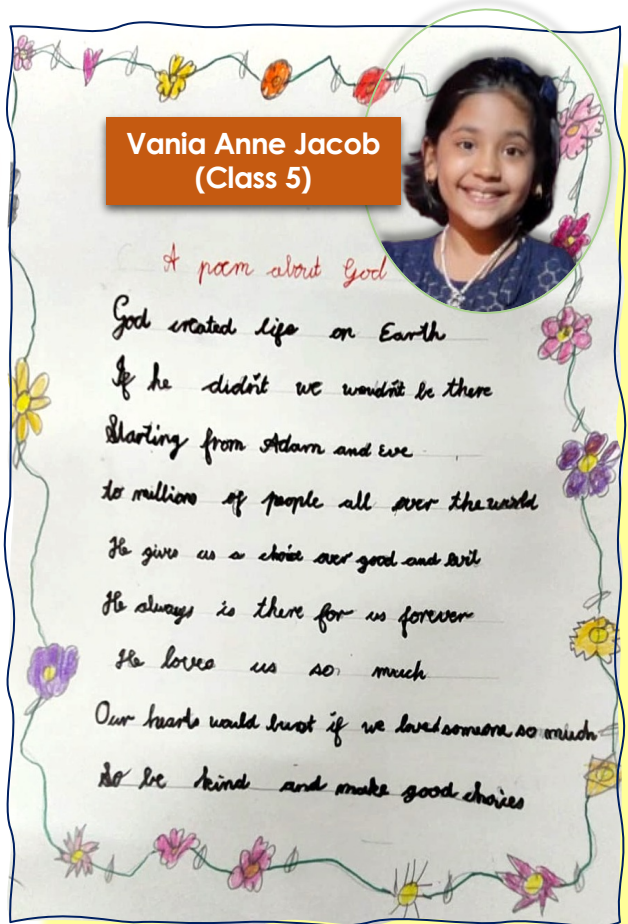


Michelle Mariam Ajish
(Tiny Tots)





Joanna Stephen
(Class 5)



Vania Anne Jacob
(Class 5)

A poem about God

God created life on Earth
If he didn't we wouldn't be there
Starting from Adam and Eve
to millions of people all over the world
He gives us a choice over good and evil
He always is there for us forever
He loves us so much
Our hearts would burst if we loved someone so much
So be kind and make good choices

"GOD IS GOOD - ALL THE TIME"



Libi Peter
(Teacher Tiny Tots)

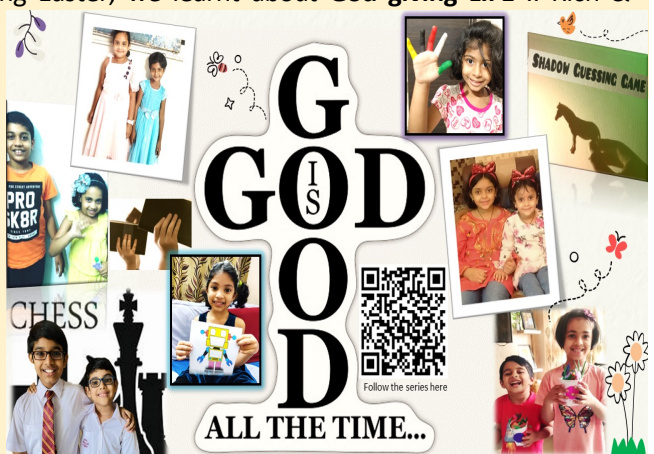
'God is Good - all the time'; was the tagline of the 3 part SS Online Common Session that was conducted in the first quarter of this year.

In the cold month of January, we felt warmth as we learnt that **God is Light**; God created the physical lights & leads us with His moral Light. Voyaging in His Light allows us to not walk in darkness & stumble.

In the Valentine month, we learnt that **God is Love**; His love is so wonderful that He sent His only begotten Son. Jesus desires to be our Good Shepherd so that we don't go astray as we Voyage through life.

As we were going through the Lent season & approaching Easter, we learnt about **God giving LIFE** .. Rich & satisfying New life through Jesus Christ.

The highlight of this common session was that many of our students helped explain these Godly concepts using 'Object Lessons'. Jesus taught using daily-life objects like seeds, coins, sheep.. to bring out God's moral truths powerfully. Hide & Seek Fun (by Johan & Eva Selbin), Chess Rules (by Joshua & Joel Allen), Shadow Guessing Game (by Joel Peter), Robot Craft (by Esther Mathew), Finger Coloring (by Michelle Ajish), Caterpillar to Butterfly; Seed Germination compilation (by Meeval & Nathan Shiju) were the topics of our object lessons. Evelyn Sujith illustrated God's love by narrating one of her own comic compilations of Zaccheus.



'Shine Jesus Shine' song by Rachel Anil, 'Shepherd of my Soul' by Fiona & Evana Lenu a song based on Psalms 23 & 'My God is so Big' action song by Richelle & Rozanne Rijo were also items of this series. The sessions were concluded with prayers by Angel Bobby, Noble Chacko, Joel Biju, Sarah John, Johan George, Chris Kurian, Jaimy Daniel, Rhea Prashant, Joanna Binu, Immanuel George, Jordan Santosh, Joilyn George, Joshua Allen, Aimee Tom & Albin Wilson.

Kids, Let's be assured that if we believe all these things we learnt about God, plant our trust deep in Jesus, let our 'mustard-seed-sized' faith grow, keeping our eyes fixed on the 'Gardener of our souls', God can cause our faith to grow so fruitful, beautiful & strong that it can even move mountains!! For there's nothing our God cannot do.. but He needs our cooperation (remember we are not ROBOTS!)



PARABLES OF JESUS

THE PRODIGAL SON

JOEL O. PETER



Once there was a father who had two sons



The younger son told his father

Give me my share of property now!



The father gave this son his share & he set off to a far away country



There he spent all his money on reckless living



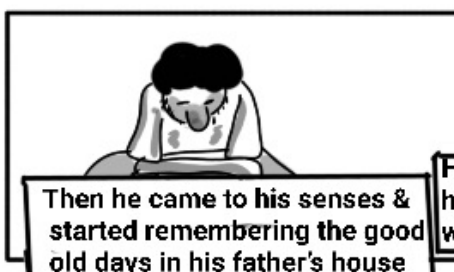
In the end, he had no money & all his 'friends' left him



To earn some money he went to work in a pig farm



He wasn't given any food such that he even felt like having pig food!



Then he came to his senses & started remembering the good old days in his father's house



He set off for home, hoping that his father would forgive him



His father saw him from a distance...



...ran to his son and showed him his love



That evening he threw a party for his son's arrival...



...but his older son refused to come

I can't believe you threw a party for that boy! Haven't I always been loyal to you? Still you never allowed me a feast!



Son, everything I have is yours, but shouldn't we celebrate? Your brother was lost but now he is found!



Joel Peter
(Class 8)

A

S

K



WE are on a VOYAGE

We need to Ask, Seek & Knock.

God will surely open the right doors at the right time.

In this supplement, we are encouraged to learn from the godly people in the Bible who VOYAGED before us.

Through their various trials & circumstances they depended on God & God helped them as they did their part of Asking, Seeking & Knocking.

Some of the junior-most Sunday school kids took up the challenge of dressing up as Biblical characters for this feature.



Mathew 7 : 7

and it will be given



and you will find



it will open for you.

"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Olivia Jason as

Sarah

Both Abraham & Sarah were very old and forgotten that they had asked for children. God said they would have a baby and Sarah laughed. However, God did keep His promise & gave Abraham and Sarah a son named Isaac. Isaac meant 'laughter'



Alissa Biju as

Miriam

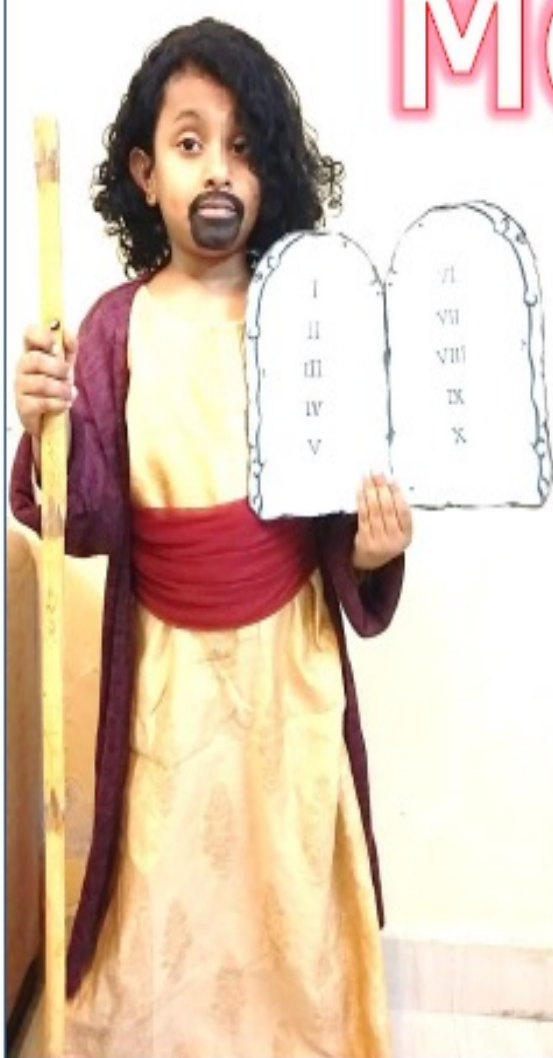
Miriam was Aaron & Moses' sister and a prophetess. After the Egyptian soldiers had been drowned in the Red Sea, Miriam took a timbral in her hand, all the women followed her dancing & singing *"Sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted. Both horse and rider He has hurled into the sea."*



Hannah Renju as

Moses

From being born as an 'unusual child' to slave parents, to the floating in a basket as a 3 month old, to being brought up in the Pharaoh's palace, to taking care of sheep in Midian, to hearing God's voice in the burning bush, to challenging Pharaoh to let God's people go, to leading the great Exodus & through the desert on the way to the promised land; God took a number of years to train & mould Moses to be His greatest servant leader before the coming of Christ because Moses did ask, seek and knock for opportunities to become God's friend.



Meeval Shiju as

Ruth

Nathan Shiju as

Boaz

Ruth didn't want to leave her mother-in-law Naomi all alone, so she asked to follow her mother-in-law to Bethlehem after her husband & two sons had died.

The entire town welcomed them. However, Naomi and Ruth were very poor. Ruth went seeking grains in the fields of a righteous man named Boaz, to get food.

The Lord was gracious to Ruth as she knocked at a plan Naomi told her. Soon Boaz became her husband. She became the great grandmother of David and thereby the ancestor of Jesus.



Rheannah Shiju as

Hannah

Hannah was not able to have any children of her own. So, she prayed asking and seeking God for a baby boy. She promised to give him back to the Lord to serve him. God heard her prayer and blessed Hannah with baby Samuel. When Samuel grew up, Hannah took him to the house of the Lord. Eli the priest took Samuel to train him in God's ways. For their sacrifice, Hannah and her husband Elkanah were blessed with more children.



Ethan Subin as

King Solomon



Emma Subin as

Queen
of
Sheba



King Solomon, son of David, is portrayed as a King great in wisdom, wealth and power beyond any of the Kings before his time. He is the perfect example of one who did ask, seek and knock, wherein he seeks for more wisdom, when asked for anything by God, and in turn gets wisdom, power, and wealth from God.

Queen Sheba, who sought wisdom, travelled far to find it. She was amazed by the spectacular splendour in Solomon's court, recognizing the divine source of Solomon's wisdom.

Ask for the right thing, and God will grant in abundance of what we deserve.



Eva Selbin as

Queen Esther

Johan Selbin as

Mordecai



Esther was a beautiful girl. She did not have any parents but had a big cousin brother who took care of her. One day Esther was chosen to be Queen of Persia.

Now, a bad man named Haman wanted to hurt God's people. But Esther sought God's wisdom and together with her cousin Mordecai they helped in saving the Jews from Haman's evil schemes.

Esther remains an example of bravery. She faced fear but did what was right, and God was faithful to deliver.



Esther Matthews as

Elizabeth



Elizabeth and Zechariah loved and obeyed God, but they were old and had no children.

One day Angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and said they will have a baby who would grow up to be great.

Elizabeth was happy to know this. Mary, who was her cousin came to see her. Elizabeth and Zechariah had their son and they named him John.

Angel

Richelle Rijo as

Gabriel

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee to a God-fearing girl called Mary. The angel told Mary *"Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."*

Mary was scared to see the angel.

Rozanne Rijo as

Mary

Mother of Jesus



The angel said *"Do not be afraid, God is with you, you are going to have a special baby. His name is Jesus, He is our king."* Mary obeyed God's plan



Vivaan Robin as

Simon Peter

The Lord took quite a few years to change Simon (*meaning reed*) to Peter (*meaning rock*); from an unruly fisherman into the saint & disciple who led the first church by fishing thousands of men for the kingdom of God.

Viaan Lijo as

Jesus

The Name above all names, the beloved Son of the Most High God & our Saviour; tells us to ask, seek & knock in prayer so that we can invite Him to get involved in our lives personally and in whatever situations & circumstances we are facing. He is good, loves us & is the great **'I AM'**.

Angelina Dileep as

Martha

Martha, Mary & Lazarus of Bethany were very close to Jesus. Martha opened her home to Jesus & got busy to serve Him, but Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to what He said. Jesus taught Martha not to be worried & upset about many things but to choose the one thing that was needed, which Mary had chosen. Martha's & Mary's faith grew & Jesus even resurrected their brother back to life!

Benita Dileep as

& Mary

of Bethany





We Dedicate this edition of our Newsletter
IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED EX-STUDENT



Mr. Rhein Alex Roy
(2001 - 2022)

You never said I'm leaving, you never said goodbye. You were gone before we knew it, and only God knows why!
In our hearts you hold a place that no one could ever fill. It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone...for part of us went with you, today as God took you home.

God decided that he needed Rhein and therefore he took him away without warning, leaving all of us especially his family unprepared for this unexpected loss.

A sharp, active, independent, strong, and resourceful student at our Sunday school.

Rhein touched lives of so many; our beloved, shining, happy mischievous youngster, the light of our lives and our hearts, leaves us smiling through our tears. He was joy personified.

Miss you Rhein !!!

**Heartfelt Condolences and Prayers from
Teachers and Students
of
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at
St. Mary's OSC, , Pune**

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