



His Grace Geevarghese Mar Coorilos  
Metropolitan of Bombay Diocese

### Message from His Grace

*Blessings to the Sunday school students, teachers and parents of St Mary's Orthodox Syrian Church, Pune.*

**Dearly Beloved,**

**T**he Dormition of St. Mary, the Theotokos is a marvelous treat to the entire creation to show how God can be merciful and proud to receive the worthy ones who responded for His Glory and salvation of the whole humanity. As we celebrate this blessed event, let us try to emulate the life of Mother Mary, seek her intercession and rededicate ourselves to the Lord in all humility and sincerity. My Blessings and Best Wishes for the Newsletter, '**Kids Voyage.. journey with Jesus.**' Children!, submit yourselves to come closer to Jesus Christ, listen to Him, surrender to Him and take up the tasks entrusted unto you by Him like His Apostles. May this 'journey with Jesus' be a great blessing to you for spiritual transformation. May the Holy Spirit strengthen you and use each one of you as fruitful instruments for His Glory.

**Yours Shepherd in Christ,**

**Geevarghese Mar Coorilos, Metropolitan, Bombay Diocese.**

### From the Vicar's Desk

*I assure you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven – St. Matthew 18:3*



**J**esus said, "Let the children come to me and don't stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to them." But now, this innocence is in danger of being lost. Children of today are losing their childhood. They look serious and lost in their own thoughts.

This could be due to lack of time and communication with parents or pressure from parents to follow the goals as set by them.

Consumer based commercials which make the children grow fast or lack of imagination also plays a huge role in them losing their childhood. Children need to play, read, dream and hope. But, sadly we see them always in front of TV or computer. So they are losing the art of conversation, creativity and interpersonal skills.

The initiative taken by Sunday School teachers to publish a Newsletter will explore a child's creativity and basic understanding of Christian faith, peace and love which will help them grow and abide in our Lord, Jesus Christ. So, I urge all parents to encourage and guide your children nurture the talents of their own choice. Surely, our Lord talks to them and the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them.

May God bless all,  
Yours In Christ

**Fr. Sajeev K Varghese**

The students of Sunday School have been allocated one of the four houses with the following colour codes.



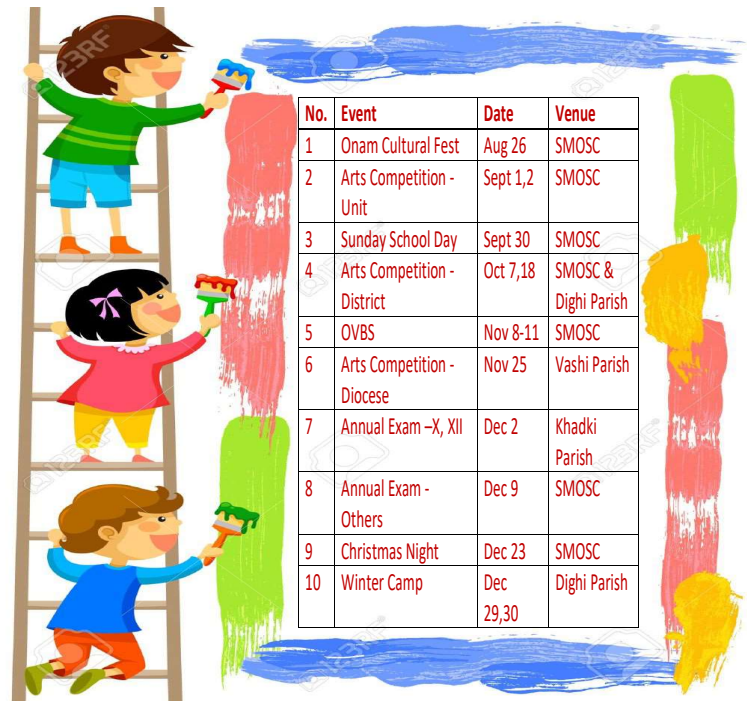
Bethlehem

Nazareth

Galilee

Jerusalem

### The planned events Until December 2018



| No. | Event                       | Date      | Venue                |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 1   | Onam Cultural Fest          | Aug 26    | SMOSC                |
| 2   | Arts Competition - Unit     | Sept 1,2  | SMOSC                |
| 3   | Sunday School Day           | Sept 30   | SMOSC                |
| 4   | Arts Competition - District | Oct 7,18  | SMOSC & Dighi Parish |
| 5   | OVBS                        | Nov 8-11  | SMOSC                |
| 6   | Arts Competition - Diocese  | Nov 25    | Vashi Parish         |
| 7   | Annual Exam -X, XII         | Dec 2     | Khadki Parish        |
| 8   | Annual Exam - Others        | Dec 9     | SMOSC                |
| 9   | Christmas Night             | Dec 23    | SMOSC                |
| 10  | Winter Camp                 | Dec 29,30 | Dighi Parish         |

### Head Master's Message

**I**t gives me immense pleasure to place before you the Sunday School Newsletter entitled "Kids Voyage", first of its kind in this Sunday School. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (St. Matthew 9:14)

This Newsletter contains valuable information and thought from almost all the groups in the Church but mostly by our children. I take this opportunity to place on record my sincere thanks to our Vicar, Rev Fr Sajeev K Varghese, parents and teachers for their continued guidance, encouragement and support in fulfilling the mandate of Sunday School. I once again appreciate the sincere efforts of teachers and parents in compilation, editing and in particular, for releasing this Newsletter on this important day.

**O. Babu**  
Head Master

# Blessings from Elders



Today's children are the future of tomorrow. The Sunday School moulds a child in the development of spiritual life in a big way. St Mary's Orthodox Church, Pune plays a greater role under the guidance of the Headmaster and dedicated team of teachers. We wish them continued success. God bless.

**- Col T.M. George Retd,  
Honorary Treasurer**

This Newsletter is a great initiative. In this way our children not only can showcase their talents but also express themselves freely. May God Almighty bless you through this beautiful journey.

**- T.M. Joshua and Mary Joshua, Senior Citizens**

May this newsletter enlighten the children to follow the footsteps of JESUS. Our prayers and good wishes.

**- Annie Koshy, Secretary- Martha Mariam Vanitha Samajam**

The youth movement wishes the young travellers of the sunday school a blessed voyage of a million words. Wish you all great success in this wonderful venture.

**- Bijoy Joseph, Secretary- Youth Movement**

The whole mix -up of word of God & kids creativity together showcased in a single glance is simply unique & innovative. Best wishes to the kids & the whole team of Sunday School from M.G.O.C.S.M

**- Siji Varghese, Trustee- MGOCSM**



for me.....

..... gives hope that my children grow and thrive not only in the knowledge imparted through formal schooling but also grow in wisdom and understanding of our faith through lessons and activities. Their foundation in our Christian faith and community will be built through their active involvement at Sunday school.

**- Preeti Stephen, Parent of Rebecca - (Class V) and Joanna- (Class I) (Galilee)**

.....is a tremendous precious gift in my life. It helped me to come more close to God. There can be nothing great than teaching any one about God. Its our spiritual growth towards Jesus and I am proud to say I have created disciples of 'Jesus Christ'.

**- Roshni Vinod Varghese, Teacher – Class VII (Galilee)**

.....is a place where we learn to live closer to God. It is a place where all other things are forgotten for a time in the study of God's Word.

**- Shreya Mary Kurien, Student -Class VII (Jerusalem)**

**D**avid was a shepherd boy, but when God looked at him he saw a shepherd king. God gave David songs called Psalms to sing to his people to let them know that God loved them like a good shepherd takes care of his sheep. Years later another greater Shepherd King was coming from David's line. He is Jesus; He still leads and guides God's lambs to the place they always belonged - Close to God's heart!

**Joel O Peter  
Class IV (Nazareth)**



**'Kneeling in prayer'**

**by Johan Selbin (Class - Beginners)  
and Eva Selbin (Class - Nursery) (Galilee)**

## Expected Behaviour for a child inside the church

**F**rom beginning to end, God speaks about the importance of children through His word. It is our responsibility to bring them up in the manner God wants us to do. Therefore, how they behave in the church shall not be a matter of serious concern; on the other hand, how, they are taught to behave shall be our main concern.

In Matthew Chapter 18, Jesus says, "Unless you are converted and become as little children you will by no means enter the Kingdom of heaven." He said this because children are humble, honest, innocent and loving.

An often-quoted complaint heard from elders is that children do not behave properly during worship service. Parents try to quieten them by giving eatables and mobiles to play. Is this the right thing to do? Do you try to inculcate in them the favourable attitude to receive and comprehend the concept of worship? They are not capable of understanding our worship. The sermons do not suit them. So they turn to other things, an act, which we may call 'indiscipline'.

Attending church service is a significant informal form of education which brings an extensive behavioural change in children. Here it is to be noted that parents and elders have a formative influence on the child's behaviour. The other day I witnessed a parent asking his son to sit inside the church while the 'Wise parent' was standing outside. The human behaviour is very much a matter of stimuli and response. When worship language is alien to children their attention gets diverted. One cannot prescribe norms for behaviour of children when they are in church worship meant for grown-ups.

However, the children are very good observers. They catch the passion for worship by watching their parents and elders. They realise and learn from elders that church is a sacred place for sacred worship. They should imbibe the required sense of solemnity and awe. The concept of faith, worship and God is a primary lesson that children should get from parents and elders.

**Prof.K.M.Thomas  
Honorary Secretary**





# Abraham

**Rachel Anil, Class III (Jerusalem)**

I've heard many stories, but there's a special one;  
A one that is magical, about Abraham and his son.  
He made a promise, a really dear one;  
He had to kill his son, the only one.  
He went up a mountain to find a good place;  
He told his heart, not to race.  
God saw his trust and told him you're just;  
Don't kill your son, the test is done.

# God

**Shane Sibi, Class III (Jerusalem)**

God's grace is so beautiful and nice,  
It never melts like ice.  
He protects us from danger and  
never gets into anger.  
He prevents us from committing crime.  
on each day and each time.  
Thank Him for all His creations  
and we will never get into tensions.

## I wonder...was it Jesus!

**Samika Salu, Class VI (Jerusalem)**

Once upon a time there lived two brothers. The elder brother, Kay was kind and the younger, Joe was cruel. He was so mischievous that his parents too were worried about him. Kay was the only one who used to be always friendly with him.

One day they were walking through a street. The mischievous, Joe troubled a beggar by taking away his money. Kay shouted, "What are you doing Joe, my boy? He is a poor beggar. Return his money right now. Remember God is watching you." Joe was very reluctant. They had a heated argument before returning home. Joe did not return the money.

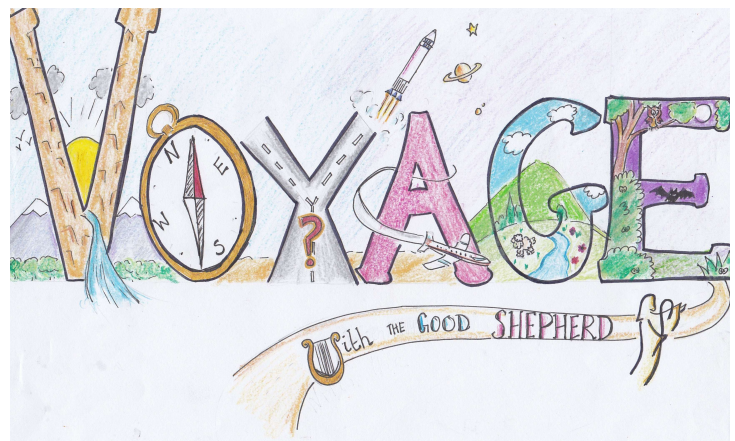
One day, while playing Joe got hurt very badly. Because of his unfriendly nature no one helped him. To his surprise, it was the beggar who took Joe to the nearby hospital. The beggar was very kind. Though he had no money, the beggar made sure that the boy was taken care of. Joe felt ashamed of himself. After recovering from his injuries, he went in search of the beggar. But Joe couldn't find the beggar in the street. He asked many people about the beggar, but no one knew about such a person. Joe asked himself, "Was it God who came in the form of the beggar?"

I strongly believe that it was Jesus who through his kindness guided Joe towards the right path because Jesus wants His children to be well mannered, kind and generous to all.

## God's blessings in my life

**Chris Kurian, Class V (Bethlehem)**

Ceremoniously, we do our daily prayers in the morning, evening and night without fail. However, I am sharing my experience about how I felt God's presence. I believe that our heartfelt pleas never go unanswered by our Almighty God. As usual I got ready to go to school, hurriedly said my prayers and proceeded. School started. We finished four periods. It was time for a short recess and then rest of the school day. Very soon, the day ended and I was busy writing the extra notes, unaware that my school bus had come and already left without me. I started panicking. Seeing my plight, one of the neighbours, a shopkeeper uncle asked me to give the contact number of my dad. Immediately he contacted my dad and within half an hour my dad was there at the school. I breathed a sigh of relief and I felt God's presence in the form of that uncle.



**Joshua M Peter- Class VIII (Nazareth)**

## Thank You My Sunday School

### Abhishek Ginod, Class XII (Bethlehem)

**J**ohn 20:29- Jesus said to Thomas "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." We are the blessed who have believed and have not yet seen. We believe that Christ took human form, entered this world to save us, was crucified and was risen from death by the Lord's glorious power. So how has this faith really evolved in us?

It is because of our parents, grandparents, church and most importantly the Sunday School that has introduced us to our Father in heaven. Had it not been for them we would have been amongst the millions who are in the dark regarding God's plans and His grace.

Be it their bedtime stories, their constant efforts to make us read the Bible or the yearly Arts competitions in Sunday School, from all these places we learn something. We must be thankful to God and cherish these blessings but with that must also develop a sense of responsibility to pass on this faith to the younger minds and contribute to the Sunday School in every way possible.

## I am because WE are..

### Jennifer Mathew Daniel, Class XII (Galilee)

The Good Samaritan:

**W**e all have read the story of the Good Samaritan. But do we know what it takes to be a real-life Samaritan? Let's see...Firstly, who is a Good Samaritan?



A person who selflessly helps others in need can be called a Good Samaritan. 'Selflessly' being the key word because many a times, we help others for our own selfish reasons (Admit it!) Being a good Samaritan includes not only helping others but also helping one's own self...

When we do something that makes us happy; it ignites within us a fire which spreads its warmth

in this cold world. A world where people have forgotten that they too have this power to spread this warmth of positivity.

I am because we are...

Helping others doesn't always mean doing something very big. It can be something as simple as smiling at someone (genuine smile, please).

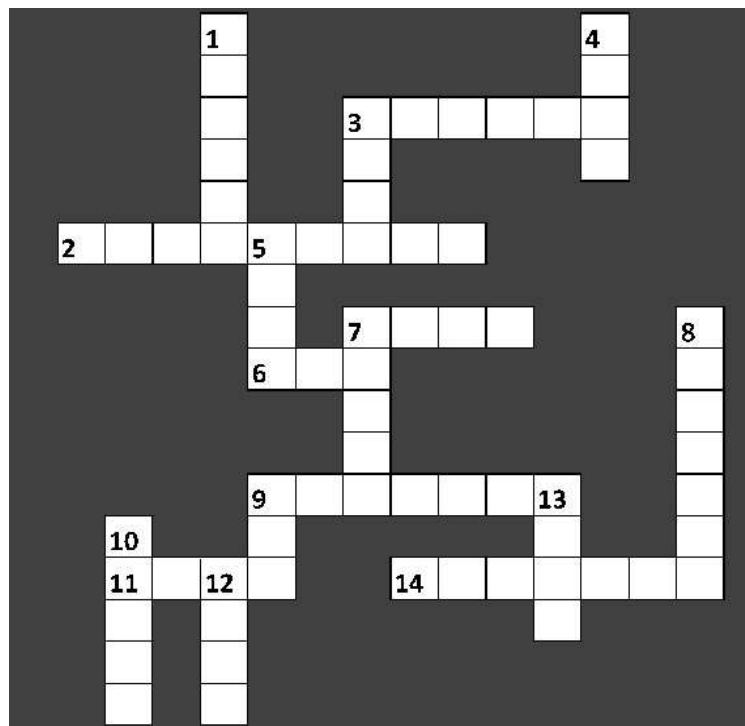
Each one of us has something which they can contribute to the world, something positive, something that makes them special... which invokes in them nothing but pure joy and happiness. When one is in this state, there is nothing but magic ... So it's our duty to find that "something" and share it with the world. The world needs the warmth which is spread when one does what one loves. So, go on... find what makes your soul happy and then just let it out in the world... Who knows someone out there needs that positive energy. Unknowingly, you can be a Good Samaritan to someone.

### Tanya Sibi, Class X (Jerusalem)

1. Shortest verse in the Bible -- 'Jesus wept' (St. John 11:35)
2. Shortest chapter in the Bible -- Psalms 117
3. Longest chapter in the Bible -- Psalms 119
4. Believers were first called 'Christians' at a place called -- Antioch (Acts 11:26)
5. King Solomon asks God to give him -- Wisdom
6. Gideon's weapons when he fought with the Midianites -- Trumpets, Pitchers and Lamps
7. The Ten Commandments were written on -- Tablets of stone

## Bible Crossword

### Joshua Allen, Class II (Bethlehem)



Down

1. The mother of Samuel (6)
3. Third son of Adam and Eve (4)
4. 50 days of fasting (4)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is patient and kind (4)
7. The apostle who walked on water (5)
8. First book of the Holy Bible (7)
9. What did God tell Noah to make? (3)
10. "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of life" (5)
12. The place where Jesus performed his first miracle (4)
13. Mother of Jesus Christ (4)

Across

2. Birthplace of Jesus (9)
3. The man who lost his hair (6)
6. Mother of all humans (3)
7. Saul of Tarsus (4)
9. Father of the faithful (7)
11. Meaning of Peter (4)
14. Which wood did Noah use? (7)

Cypress

Crossword Answers: Down: 1. Hannah 3. Seth 4. Lent 5. Love 7. Peter 8. Genesis 9. Ark 10. Bread 12. Cana 13. Mary Across: 2. Bethlehem 3. Samson 6. Eve 7. Paul 9. Abraham 11. Rock 14.

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