

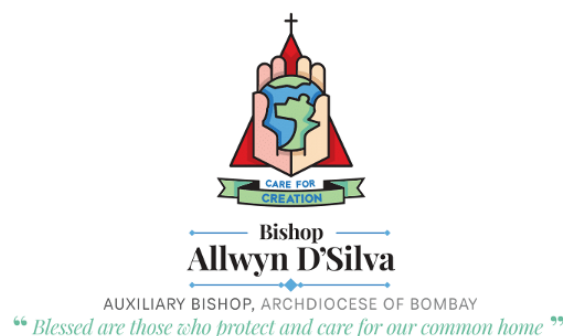
# THE INMATES

Website: <https://www.prisonministrymumbai.org> | Email: [drtcjpc@gmail.com](mailto:drtcjpc@gmail.com)

*He has sent me  
to proclaim release  
to the captives*

Luke 4:18





### MESSAGE

When Jesus was born, a magnificent star lit up the darkness of the night. The star served as a guiding light to those seeking the Light of the World, God made flesh – who truly dispels the darkness that engulfs us. The Christ Child comes to us in all our human frailty and takes on all suffering, to embrace our darkness and give us light. The prophet Isaiah reinforces that *those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone* (Isaiah 9:2). This is the light of hope that no darkness can overcome. It reassures us that we need only to look to the radiant Christ Child to renew our hope. We have recourse to the God who experienced all our weaknesses, depravity, pain and encumbrances. Through the Incarnation, Christ lived the tribulations of this world and still assures each and every one of us of redemption, exhorting us to *take heart; I have overcome the world* (John 16:33). How uplifting and dazzling this hope is!

For the incarcerated however, it is not easy to experience hope. It is hard to encounter the peace and joy of Christmas when grappling with the darkness of pain, separation, betrayal, helplessness, guilt, loneliness, despair, fear, torment and agony. To see the light of Christ, they need the perseverance and patience of the magnificent stars who are Prison Ministry volunteers – beacons who cut through the darkness and direct those behind bars to the brilliance and hope of Christ. Therefore, this Christmas I encourage us to continue brightening lives with the light of hope.

May the Christ Child renew and strengthen us as we compassionately reach out to the incarcerated and their loved ones!

With my warm Christmas greetings and blessings,

✠ **Bishop Allwyn D'Silva**  
Chairperson – Prison Ministry India  
Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay



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*It was Christmas in Prison*

*And the food was real good*

*We had turkey and pistols*

*Carved out of wood.*

John Prine's unconventional Christmas song "Christmas in Prison" is about a homesick inmate. But the incarcerated person may not be in a literal cell. "It's about a person being somewhere like a prison, in a situation they do not want to be in "he said" and wishing they were somewhere else" The imagery used is of an actual prison.

Dr Christian Jarrett explains the plight of a prisoner when day after day, year after year, they have no space to call their own, no choice over who to be with, what to eat or where to go. There is suspicion and threat everywhere. Love, or even a gentle human touch can be difficult to find. You are separated from family and friends. There is also an assumption that if you are sent to prison, you must have done something horrible and need to be punished. If they are to cope, the prisoners confined to this environment have no option but to change and adapt. some do so for the better while others have festering wounds that only make them bitter and revengeful.



The Hope Prison Ministry shares a story from Africa. In Africa's prisons and in many parts of the world, Jesus is still revealing Himself in unexpected ways. Recently, a prison gangster reached out for help to the Prison Ministry. He had grown up without a father and his childhood was full of brokenness and anger. One day, his father contacted him for the first time in years. the prisoner had no clue how to respond, now he had to deal not only with his long term in prison but also with complicated emotions of re connecting with his father.

Initially he turned to his gang brothers for help---- he received the shocking advice "Go speak to Hope Prison Ministry" The Prison Ministry reports, the gangs should have been opposing them, but even the enemies see Jesus in their work. They are the unlikely witnesses to the Christmas Story!!

Society see prison as a black hole of despair but as Prison Ministry Volunteers we see the hope and welcoming light of the Star of Bethlehem. The Gospel of John (1:5) says that the Light came into the darkness of the world and the darkness will never put the light out. An apt quote from Prison Fellowship " It is amazing how History repeats itself--unless you deal with it. If you are in a cold, damp, dark place- mould grows- but when you shine light on it and bring warmth to it, the disfunction dies." Our endeavour is to always strive to renew, reform and rehabilitate.

Prisons can be dark places because of the misery, loneliness and isolation, but in our own little way, we can help to brighten the days of the inmates. Many of the Prison Ministry volunteers have been able, with the generous donations of sponsors, to gift clothes and other essentials to the prisoners. The symbolic giving of gifts during this season reminds us of the

greatest gift of all--Jesus. While all Jails are not accessible to visitors, we can always give the most priceless gift - that of our fervent prayers, not only for the prisoners but also for their suffering families. Each Unit was tried ways and means of being a light in the dark existence of the lives of many a prisoner. Though the Pandemic brought activities to a halt and entry to some Jails was restricted, the hope that lies eternal in the hearts of the volunteers,

kept them strong in their commitment to Prison Ministry.

Research shows that human beings have the ability to evolve and survive the worst possible situations. In fact, we as Prison Ministry volunteers can reach out by finding ways of keeping our own hopes intact, remain positive in the face of rejection and resilient enough to spring back when the opportunity arises to be of service to the children in the Remand Homes and the thousands of men and women languishing behind prison bars.

After all, the Hope, Joy and Love of the Christmas season should be the reason why the baby Jesus came into this troubled world.

**- Dr Maureen Lobo**  
Asst. Co-ordinator, Talaja Jail





## FR. GLASTEN'S APPOINTMENT

Congratulations to  
Fr. Glasten Gonsalves,  
Director – Prison Ministry  
Mumbai on his recent  
appointment to  
National Executive Member  
of Prison Ministry India



*Congratulations  
Fr. Glasten Gonsalves*

WE WISH OUR ENTIRE  
PRISON MINISTRY MUMBAI FAMILY  
A

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

&  
BLESSED NEW YEAR 2022



### PRISON MINISTRY MUMBAI OFFICIAL DETAILS

You can reach us at: Prison Ministry Mumbai, C/o Centre for Peace Trust, St. Pius College,  
Aarey Road, Goregaon (E), Mumbai - 400 063

You can contact us or WhatsApp us: 9820093121

You can email us at: drtcjpc@gmail.com

You can visit our official website: [www.prisonministrymumbai.org](http://www.prisonministrymumbai.org)

### BANK DETAILS (FOR DONATIONS)

A/C Name: Centre for Peace Trust,

Bank name: State Bank of India

Branch: Goregaon

A/C No: 10472848131

IFSC code: SBIN0001975

Your donations/contribution may be sent to **"CENTRE FOR PEACE TRUST"** Donations will be exempted,  
vide order no. DIT(E)/MC/80G/2824/2008/208- 09/dated 18.12.2008



### Arthur Road Prison Report

Prison Ministry Mumbai at Arthur Road Jail has earned recognition from the Jail authorities as one of the hard working and service oriented visiting NGOs. Our Workforce, Authorities and Inmates share a trusted relationship.

Due to pandemic, we faced a temporary “stop-work” to our continuity of good work. Being one of the “High Profile” Central Jails of Mumbai, this was understandable. We continue to pray every month, trusting Our Lord to soon open up the doors of prison to continue with our mission.

However, we looked for opportunities to work from outside, amongst other units. DSIS at Matunga requested for a few things. We did support and had the pleasure of meeting the Superintendent, Mr. Anil Pawar when we gifted some articles.

In November 21, the same unit approached us again to help them supply with “toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps”, to be included in their Christmas hampers for the children. We donated and in addition gave 12 bottles of Dettol for their in-house use. After all, Prison Ministry Mumbai is one family which works with different prisons and observation home. We look forward to help and cater to such needs in future too. Seeking God’s mercy, compassion and grace to lift us out of pandemic soon.

### Byculla Prison Report

The lockdown was frightening as no visits and more over many new volunteers. This made us think beyond as we have a very dedicated group of volunteers both young and old, both experienced and self-giving. We thus planned small online activities to keep the group motivated, with entertainment and games. We had legal awareness sessions, and 5 weeks of intensive counselling sessions as this was the need of our volunteers, we had volunteers of all Mumbai participating.

Our entire group pondered with many debating and brainstorming sessions and after considering the ideas of all, we came up with the tag line of “Crime free Families “. Being online era we planned to release videos with detailed ways and procedures to help families and individuals to give up their bad habit of doing wrong things. Prevention is better than cure was the motivating phrases used by Fr. Glasten Gonsalves. When each video was released, we received feedback and this helped us to improve the quality of our videos. We began with our series of 7 videos focusing our attention on different age

groups beginning with pregnancy to seniors, these are under circulation. We do continue to get feedback and also request to help out in situations on a personal basis.

We were pleased that PMM selected one of our members to start a Rehabilitation team and this gave us a further push, and so a team among our volunteers was formed and we are working at the juvenile home 3 days a week with the boys and the girls section at the Dongri home. Our goal is Crime free families and we are working towards this, but surely, we will achieve crime free individuals. Today we are a small team. We look forward to extend the group so we can help more children by the right way of counselling. We are working on different therapies to bring about a change in them as children are our future.



### Kalyan Prison Report

We are called by Christ to serve the world as He did, seek to reform, redeem, and re-integrate. The main goal of the PMM is to help them recover from dehumanization and bring about restoration and healing through our continuous support. The month of November saw a flurry of activities at Aadharwadi Jail.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021, 5 Volunteers of PMM took 120 maxis/nighties for the women inmates and clothes for 7 children of the inmates. These were partially sponsored by PM volunteers of Children's Dongri Home, Ms Lily Vaz and Ms Maria Fernandes of Mira Road. We are grateful to two anonymous donors from Dahisar and Kalyan. Ms Josephine Chouri and Ms Monica Chettiar purchased the maxis and the children's clothes were purchased by Mr John Misquitta and son. The Superintendent of the Adharwadi Jail appreciated this gesture by PMM to make Diwali a little brighter for the inmates.





The PMM volunteers present were Mr Dominic Dsouza, Mr Jude Francis and Mr John Misquitta. The PMM Director, Fr Glasten Gonsalves met the Superintendent, Mr Sadaphule and he expressed the need to conduct an eye camp for the inmates. Medicines for the affected prisoners would be distributed shortly.

A lot has been achieved and the Ministry has a long way to go. This is all possible because of God's providence and commitment of the volunteers. The Volunteers live by the motto - Be a love bomb - let it explode, not to kill but to heal the broken hearted. These words are translated into action by the selfless service that the Prison Ministry members offer.



### Taloja Prison Report

Prison is a storehouse of pain and suffering. The inmates experience deprivation of freedom, and extended period of isolation from their loved ones. Our God is a freedom loving God, he sent his son Jesus to liberate us. We are called to be the light and salt in the world and that urges Prison Ministry Mumbai to work for righteousness amid the tyranny of society.

The Entertainment Room from where music is relayed to all the barracks, the entire wiring and sound system was set up by PMM. Recently the laptop has been repaired and the amplifier replaced. The music hour helps to alleviate the mood of the prisoners.

An inmate who has been operating the music system is due to be released shortly. He requested Fr Glasten Gonsalves to help him with some Computer course. This will be an effort to reintegrate him in Society.

In the Pandemic, 500 reusable masks were distributed to the prisoners. An Oximeter and 10 litres of hand sanitizer was also donated. This activity was appreciated by the Authorities.

The Ministry applies biblical principles to difficult situations. It is a powerful testimony to a frequently doubtful world that the Gospel is not just theoretical philosophy but a life-giving relationship with Christ who can change human hearts and bring hope to circumstances the world may consider as hopeless.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> November, a skin camp was conducted for 125 women prisoners. Holy Cross Hospital, Kalyan arranged 2 Doctors to examine all the patients. They were assisted by PMM Volunteers, Ms Michelle Lopez, Ms Josephine Chouri and Ms Cecilia Jagtap.

On the next day, a similar skin camp was conducted for 153 male inmates. Holy Cross Hospital, Kalyan arranged for two doctors, Dr. Mody and Ajay Sharma.





## Thane Jail Report

With Pope Francis giving the call for the Synod with the key word of 'Journeying', it was an awakening voice for all of us to acknowledge that in our involvement with Society, very often we are not able to solve problems but journey with those on the periphery in their struggles and hopes. This is exactly what we, at St John Baptist Parish connected with the Prison Ministry had in mind as we encountered the inmates of the Thane Prison Cell. We took the opportunity of the festival of lights (Diwali) to bring in some brightness in the dark world of the prison inmates. First our attention went to the 140 women inmates of the Prison, to whom we gave blankets and towels. One could visibly see the shine on their wrinkled faces as they accepted the things. not because they needed it. but the giving was symbolic of our desire to recognise their presence, and journey with their pain and struggle.

Next, we were deeply moved looking at the 6 children born to the inmates...and what better way, than to clothe them with some colorful clothes which brought smiles on their faces and tears in our eyes. We also realised that those in charge of such responsibility such as guarding



a prison, go through their own journey of ups and downs in the dark cells of the so-called rejects of society. To these workers and officials, including the kind and human hearted Superintendent, there was a round of tasty delicious festive sweets. What we noticed is the fact that very often, such efforts of these officials are taken for granted or just criticized. When these were appreciated, there comes the extra spark of zest to do the assigned work with dedication and with purpose.

All in all, it was a touching, poignant experience of our brush with this sector of humanity...and our gratitude goes to Fr Thomson, for his support and generosity in letting the St John's Prison Ministry Cell achieve its activities of the Prison Ministry Cell and that these continue. We returned with one thought. that we are no one to judge people's motives for their actions as to why they are in prison, but our role was to bring a little of the life and kindness of God in their lives.



## REPORTS- CHILDREN'S HOME

### Dongri Observation Home Report

Heart filled with Gratitude

Whatsoever you do to the least of my Brothers that you do unto me. These words are carved on my mind. Another quotation from the Bible which is still vivid is the Biblical quotation in Mathew 25:36,40 "I was in prison and you came to visit me ... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Our Volunteers are our strength, prayer is our power house, inconvenience is our convenience, God's providence is our Bank Balance and Begging is our Lifestyle. This helps us keep ourselves grounded. We are blessed with Mr. Rahul Kanthikar as our Superintendent who welcomes our Ministry with respect and kindness.





I say blessed, as PMM were the first ones to enter after the pandemic.

Dongri Observation Home today houses over 110 Children in need of care and protection (CNC) and the Children in conflict with Law (CCL). In September, 2021 our first mission after the lockdown was the Renovation of the Computer Lab and Installation of 10 Brand New Computers for both the Boys and Girls Section where they are trained with the Basic Computer knowledge. Similarly, we have started Counseling sessions, Beautician courses, Cookery classes, Art and Craft sessions, Tuitions for Class Xth (Hindi Medium) NIOS has begun, Meditations, Yoga and Exercise, Bakery, Sports & Calligraphy which will begin shortly and various courses which will elevate their self-esteem and give them a purpose in life once they are set free. In our own small ways, we have been conducting various therapies to keep them engaged with Play, Story Telling, Paint and Drawing.



The last quarter we have conducted many activities to keep ourselves engaged with them. Some of the activities are the 2 Days Dental Camps where 120 kids were screened, various treatments from scaling, tooth extractions and fillings were done. Another big assignment that we took was preparing Diwali Decorations from Diyas, Toran's and flower pots were made. These Decorations were sold at Sessions Court. We also encouraged children to prepare Diwali Sweets which were made in-house and relished on Diwali day. In addition, we had Children's Day Celebration on Nov 13th with entertainment, music, and dance. We also distributed snacks and a personal hygiene kit to every child.

Blessed to have Fr. Glasten as our PMM Director and Bishop Allwyn, who motivate us with their overwhelming support and guidance always and we felt likewise with Fr. Joe (Ex. Director) and dearest

Rowena as Ex-Coordinator. God bless them all for their commitment and service. We are grateful to our Donors, Collaborators, Volunteers and Well-wishers for their timely support and contributions without which, it would not be possible to conduct all these activities. Maria and I have experienced this tremendous joy, the joy of giving your all, your time, talent & treasure. Do you want to give your time, talent and treasure and experience that joy which no one can give?

## Mankhurd Bal Kalyan Report

The Children's Aid Society is a pioneer non-governmental organization in the field of child development, child protection and child rehabilitation. The Children's Aid Society was established in 1927. This institution serves more than 2,500 children. Bal Kalyan Institution is meant for the benefit of children who are victims of natural calamity, social apathy, and death of parents. They cater to children between the age group of 3yrs upto 18years. Owing to one or a combination of socio-economic factors, and for no fault on their own, when children are found in the dumps, BKN tries to provide them child friendly services such as:

- Residential Care, Medical and Paramedical Services.
- Formal Education and Vocational Training.
- Case Work Practice, Counseling and Guidance.
- Opportunities for Development of Character and Personality through games and recreational programmes.



To support the service that this institution has to offer to these children, many NGOs support Bal Kalyan Nagari.

Prison Ministry Mumbai under the Leadership of Fr. Glasten Gonsalves the team of professional volunteers regularly visit Bal Kalyan Nagari to train and empower these children. The children are taught spoken English, Basic Maths, art and craft and basic life lessons through

fun and games. Recently Prison Ministry Mumbai has arranged a computer lab with 6 well equipped computers. The Ministry felt the importance of training the children with basic computer skills to cope and be on par with technology during these pandemic times. A full-time instructor has been appointed to teach the children the necessary basic computer skills to help them later to define their career goals, entrepreneurship, and job opportunities.

### Mankhurd New Observation Home

This observation home has missing children, run away children, victim children, child beggars, etc. These children are produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) as 'Children in Need of Care & Protection (CNCP)'. The home has two separate sections one for boys and one for girls and the age group for these children is from 3-12. Prison Ministry volunteers have embarked on a mission to collaborate and assist the children in vocational skills and miscellaneous activities that are conducted by the Institution. Languages such as English, Hindi and Marathi are taught including basic knowledge of computers. At the same time, we assist in the personality development of the children – a version of them that reverberates confidence, enthusiasm and serenity. So, our volunteers assist in grooming them and help them to let go of their fears and be confident. We also check with them about their ambitions and motivate them to achieve it.



The pandemic paralysed and changed the system of education with the distinctive rise of e-learning. Keeping that in mind, and to make education children friendly and interesting, we set up an Audio Visual (AV) room which was inaugurated on 2nd November 2021 by Bishop Allwyn D'Silva, Chairman of PMI in the presence of Ms. Trupti Jadhav the Superintendent, the Deputy Superintendent, Fr. Glasten Gonsalves, Director of Prison Ministry Mumbai, Mr. Walter D'Souza and our volunteers.

The health of the children is our priority. Hence, we provided them with masks and sanitisers and other necessities that were required for their safety. We also provided them with clothes.

One of our foresights is venturing into new areas and new homes. Thus, we reached out to Sukh Santhi (neighbouring Children's Home) and donated bedsheets and women clothing in the presence of Superintendent Rajeswary.

Our service in this Ministry gives us joy and fulfilment as we feel privileged to bring a ray of light and hope to the less fortunate the least and the lost.



### DSIS Matunga Report

#### LEARNING IS FUN AT DSIS MATUNGA

15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 will go down in Prison Ministry Mumbai history as an auspicious day when the Children's Home at DSIS Matunga, opened its doors to welcome Prison Ministry volunteers (Matunga unit) to co-operate with them in giving the young boys (ages 6-18) the positives of gaining knowledge and learning new skills under our slogan of **"Learning is Fun"**.

We had the honour of having Fr. Glasten Gonsalves, Director, Prison Ministry Mumbai and Mr. Satish Bansode, the Superintendent of cutting the ribbon.



A class of 25 boys were put under our care (although some of them will be transient). It was a pleasure to see the smiling faces of the boys who waited excitedly in anticipation – wondering what will happen next!

The date was special to us because it coincided with Children's Day (14<sup>th</sup> November) and one of our volunteers' sponsored slippers for the boys which they wore on 14<sup>th</sup> November when the school had a special event.



From Day One i.e. 15<sup>th</sup> November, we began our activities under four fields – School Education, Art & Craft, Counselling and Baking/Culinary. Since the Matunga home has a structured school system, our volunteers too, follow a defined time table each week. Our volunteers have started to teach the boys to speak and write simple English words. In the Art & Craft classes they were shown how to make flower vases, Christmas cards and other items. Excitement is more during the culinary classes when different food items like coconut ladoos, sev puri, vegetable sandwiches, fruit salad and milk shakes are prepared and they get a chance to savour them. Some of our volunteers focus on Counselling the boys - encouraging them to accept themselves as God's beautiful creation and how to help others and live together like a family. Moral stories are told following which, the boys share what they learnt.

The children have been introduced to the concept of how each one is created in God's image and likeness and that we should respect one another without thinking of any differences and treating all with love.

Regular classes are held from 9:30 am - 3:45 pm (Mon-Fri) and 10:30 am – 12 noon (Sat).

We conducted two Dental Camps on 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in collaboration with Mumbai Health Outreach. Our special thanks to Dr. Richard Pereira and his team of dentists who did screening, scaling, fillings and tooth extractions. Gift hampers (sponsored through a generous well-wisher) containing toothbrush, toothpaste, face towel, chocolate & soft drink were given to the children.

Though recently started in DSIS Matunga, but we get the feeling that we have been there for a long time. It's the welcome from the young boys, the smile on their faces, the cooperation and support from Mr. Bansode and his staff which makes us look forward to our service in Matunga. Special thanks to Fr. Glasten Gonsalves and our Matunga volunteers for their sacrifice, dedication and commitment. This would not have been possible without their support.





## REPORT- INTERCESSORY

There is a saying that out of every bad situation, there is always good that comes out of it and so, during the lockdown, as we were not able to visit the prisons, it was the brainwave of our former Secretary and Co-ordinator of the Dongri Unit - Rowena Lewis, to start the 3:00 pm Intercessory platform as the PMM Dongri Intercession which was then renamed PMM intercessors.



It was a day of joy when we celebrated the First Anniversary of our Intercessory platform on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The uniqueness of it was, 'that there was not a single day that the intercessors did not meet for prayers'. During intercession, we would pray for all the intentions of Prison Ministry India in lieu of the visits to the prisons. Our prayers did not go unanswered as many of the petitions prayed for, came to fruition.

Our dynamic Director of PMM Fr. Glasten Gonsalves wanted to take this intercession a step further and came up with the suggestion to have a Recollection for all the Mumbai volunteers.

And so, on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021, the day when the Festival of Lights was celebrated, our topic for the Recollection was "Jesus the Light of the World". It was not a coincidence, but a way of saying "Jesus is the only Light of the World".

Our speaker for the evening was Bro Conrad Kitt of the Divine Retreat Centre, Potta.

The Recollection began with a beautiful Praise & Worship led by the PMM Intercessors, which not only paved the way for the talk by Bro Conrad, but also prepared and opened the hearts and the minds of all the participants who were kept in rapt attention by Br Conrad.

After the talk we had the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a beautiful rendition of the Tantum Ergo, took it to another level. The Recollection ended with a vote of thanks.

All the participants left spirit filled.

- Jennifer D'Sa

Head – Intercessory Team



## REPORT- LEGAL AID

### Mission Sunday with Prison Ministry Free Legal Aid

Prison Ministry Mumbai has started a new initiative – To provide Free Legal Aid to undertrials, including juveniles. This is an initiative to reach out to the marginalised and the underprivileged, who are unable to afford legal fees or who have been in prison for petty crimes and their cases are yet unattended.

If you are aware of any deserving cases in or around your Parish, you could refer them to us. Our Team of Lawyers would represent them based on a written recommendation from the priest of your parish.

#### Panel of Lawyers

Adv. Sr. Sagayamary M (Team Head)  
Adv. Br. Rajesh Parmar (SJ)  
Adv. Fr. Joshua D'Souza  
Adv. Sr. Prisca Dias  
Adv. Sr. Jean Athikalam  
Adv. Sr. Nancy Silva  
Adv. Sophia Pinto


Adv. Babita Fernandes

Adv. Arul Anthony Sebastian Nadar


Adv. Shefali Alvares

Adv. Jacqueline D'Silva

The recommendation could be sent on the following email ID – "drtcjpc@gmail.com". For further details call Sr. Sagayamary M. (Advocate) 9222252700, or WhatsApp us on 9820093121.



### FREE LEGAL AID



MISSION SUNDAY with PRISON MINISTRY

Prison Ministry Mumbai will be providing free Legal Aid to undertrials, including juveniles.

For further details:  
Email us on drtcjpc@gmail.com, or  
WhatsApp us on 9820093121

To follow Jesus means to share His merciful love for every human being.  
- Pope Francis





## EXECUTIVE TEAM TESTIMONIALS



Prisoners are deprived of all their liberties of life, be it socially or physically.

They are pitched into a dark alley, where they do not see a ray of hope... in such circumstances, we enter into their lives and reach out to them through Prison Ministry, with love care and support through our actions and selfless hard work in God's name.

My heart is filled with indescribable joy to connect with tough yet vulnerable brothers to bring a change of heart.

It's an amazing feeling of core satisfaction personally when you see their response and respect you have earned when you meet them again. It's an endearing experience which lifts my spirits of working for a noble cause.

**- Damascene Gandhi**  
Coordinator, Arthur Road Jail



I first heard about Prison Ministry Mumbai when they came to my parish for collections.

I was moved when I heard about them, and that very day, I decided that I want to be a part of the community, volunteering for them. I somehow reached out to multiple people and finally spoke to Father Wilfred, who then agreed to allowing me to become a volunteer.

I feel blessed to be a part of PMM. It has made me grow spiritually stronger and has made me more aware of the laws and lives of the innocent prisoners!

I believe it was God's call that I've been associated with PMM,

I am so touched and happy to be a part of such an enthusiastic, selfless and supportive ministry!

**- Rachel Rex Rogers Faria**  
Asst Co-Ordinator, Byculla Jail



Prison Ministry is very dear to me as I recall when I started in 2002 after a grave incident with the Catholic boys from my area and 2 of the kids were my son's classmates. I was dumbstruck and just praised God for my son. Now the urge to do something for these boys was on my list but when I asked God what can I do a reply came "child you are so frightened to enter a police station and doing something for prisoners is way out, but right now keep praying for them." My prayers were quickly answered and Sr. Diana with Sr. Cordelia and late Sr. Jemma paved my way into Prison Ministry.

The Ministry changed me as I always say if it was not for the Lord's hand over me I too could have been an inmate, and this thought has changed my prospect to live. The Ministry has blessed me, my family and all the works that I do. It's my responsibility to let every inmate know we at PMM are Love Bombs not to explode but to heal.

**- Veera Davies**  
Coordinator, Byculla Jail



About 8 years ago, I developed phobia when I was told to head Prison Ministry Mumbai, Kalyan Unit.

Sr. Dhanam told me "Do not be afraid. You have the backing of the Almighty".

I obeyed her and took up the Ministry as a challenge. When I feel let down in the Ministry, I bask in the bosom of the Creator. And I am witnessing, he has not let me down.

Now, I am able to motivate others to work in the Ministry.

**- John A. Misquitta**  
Co-ordinator, Kalyan Jail



I, Jude XAVIER Francis joined Prison Ministry. I feel that I am privileged to work with Fr. Glasten and brother John Misquitta, Co-ordinator of PMM Kalyan. The work that was initiated by our Lord

Jesus on the Cross is being carried out by our brothers and sisters. I thank our Lord Jesus for giving me the opportunity to visit the Adharwadi Jail and help in carrying out the distribution of Covid sanitizers, masks and necessary items. I had the privilege to attend the Medical Camp for Male inmates with Doctors and our brothers. It was a great experience of my life. Thanks Our Lord Jesus for giving me this opportunity. Praise the lord.

**- Jude X Francis**  
Asst Co-Ordinator, Kalyan Jail





I quote from (Jer 1: 5 “I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you)

December 1991 we had the Babri Masjid demolition there was rioting, burning of shops and murder, Commissioner of Bombay Police Julio Rebeiro issued orders to arrest wherever death took place, I was a victim of that order. I was arrested and put in police lock up. The police arrested me under section IPC 304 (Section 304 IPC provides punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder. “Whoever commits culpable homicide not amounting to murder, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for either description of a term which may extend to 10 years.)

Next day I was produced in Mulund 27<sup>th</sup> Magistrate Court and given bench bail. This was my first brush with the law and prisoners who were brought to court. My case lasted for 7 years. At every date I would meet many of the prisoners from different prisons and always thought of them living in prisons.

In June 1997 my final hearing was presented. I stood for over 2 hours in the witness box waiting for my Judgment and that day I realized what the difference was between Acquitted and Convicted. I was acquitted but learned a lot about the IPC law and inmates

Fr Joe Gonsalves and Sr Dina were my mentors who introduced me to Prison Ministry in the year 2006. My first prison visit was Thane Central Prison and I realized the 1991 incident, the Lord had planned for me, (Mt 25-35/36). I visited most of the prison and balwadis in Mumbai. The Lord has a plan for each one of us.

**- Carlton Rebeiro**  
Asst. Co-Ordinator, Thane Jail



It was way back when I received my Certificate as Counsellor, my mission to be a Counsellor came true, when I joined Prison Ministry as a Volunteer 4 years ago. It's been a blessing for me to be with our kids at Dongri Observation Home. I thank the Holy Spirit for showing me the way and guiding me to this Ministry where I understood their difficult childhood and their disturbed minds. Being with them gave me tremendous satisfaction of being able to serve those in need.

**- Maria Augusta D'Souza**  
Asst. Co-Ordinator, Dongri Unit



My involvement in Prison Ministry Mumbai Thane Unit was way back twelve years ago when I saw the team making a sale of foodstuff for collection of funds to meet the expenses for the camps, to be held at the prison. There was no turning back, as in a few years I became the Co-ordinator for the Thane unit. I got the support from the team and those in charge from the church. The smiles that we bring to the inmates through our work is indeed very satisfying. It's God's grace that helps me through the challenges and even in the pandemic times. Each of us has a cause to think with deep gratitude the spark of light that brightens the lives of others.

**- Margaret Mascarenhas**  
Co-ordinator, Thane Jail



As a Prison Ministry Mumbai volunteer, it fulfills my dream of reaching out to the last, lost and least brothers and sisters of our society. Every time I visit prison, I meet and talk to inmates or police officials and there is different feeling of bonding. They recognize me as a social worker and well-wisher. This gives me great pleasure and satisfaction. I feel proud.

**- Flavian Santarita**  
Co-ordinator – Talaja Jail



I feel blessed to be part of PM Mumbai. Initially there was a feeling of emptiness as Talaja prison does not allow volunteers in. But now I realize that prayer is also an important part of the service that we can render.

**- Maureen Lobo**  
Asst. Co-Ordinator, Talaja Jail



Prison Ministry gave me this opportunity to serve the children who are in need of care and protection at Dongri. Interacting with them gives me great joy, their warm smiles, innocent faces, asking us when will you come again simply drew me week after week to enrich their lives. The children of Dongri Observation Home have a special place in my life, my home, my family, my relatives and friends too.

**- Juliet Crasta**  
Co-ordinator, Dongri Unit



Almighty God I thank you for choosing me to be a part of prison ministry where we have received an opportunity to help children who are in need. By doing these good deeds, I receive hundred times benefits for me and my family. Thank you God for preparing us mentally and physically to carry out such work to put a smile on their faces.

**- Latha Appachan**  
Co-Ordinator, Mankhurd Observation Home



Whenever I visited BKN, Mankhurd Shelter Home and see the smile on the faces of the children and how they welcome us, I really felt that Lord Jesus is using me in His Ministry. I thank the Almighty God for choosing me to work with the less fortunate children.

**- Prescilla Fernandes**  
Asst. Co-Ordinator, Mankhurd Observation Home



For this reason I, prisoner of Christ Jesus is present for you in your difficult times (Ephesians 3:1) Therefore I walk in the manner the Lord has considered me worthy to serve thee.

**- Mamta Chettiar**  
Asst. Co-Ordinator, Mankhurd Bal Kalyan Nagari



For me Reform, Renewal and Reintegration is the foundation of Prison Ministry and thus accompanying the least and the last in their journey of their past, helping them tide through their brokenness, aggression and grief and making them accept themselves as beautiful creation of God, created in HIS own image and likeness is what Rehabilitation is all about. Being a professional Counselor, I feel blessed for being chosen as an instrument in this journey.

**- Nirmala Menezes**  
Head, Rehab Team



Once I am with the children, I just get engrossed with them, the love I get from these “angels” is just amazing. Love to be with them and spend time with them.

**- Leena Fernandes**  
Asst. Co-ordinator, DSIS Matunga Unit



It was love at first sight !

I fell head over heels in love with the boys, who on my first visit to Dongri, came running to greet me with smiling faces and sparkling eyes. Although some were sad, they still made an effort to smile. Having been through life's challenges at such a young age, they are my “heroes”. In this ministry, I am called “To Serve with Love” so that my words and action reflect Christ and that Christ increase and I decrease.

**- Maria Gomes**  
Coordinator, DSIS Matunga Unit



Being a part of Prison Ministry Mumbai has been a humbling experience. I've seen that a small effort from us can mean the world to these inmates that are cut off from the outside world. The little things we take for granted are treasured by them. I have grown as a person, spiritually and emotionally, ever so grateful for this life-changing experience. Blessed to be called by the Lord to serve prisoners, Caste, Creed, Crime, means nothing once you communicate with them at a human level. Who am I to Judge? I am called to Love and Serve unconditionally.

**- Michelle Lopez**  
Head, Medical Team



“Joining Prison Ministry Mumbai has been one of the best decisions of my life.

I have seen a lot of miracles happen e.g. inmates without even having bail money being released by prayers, and many many more. The presence of our Living God Jesus Christ felt so closely in the prison, is a joy for my entire life. The longing with which they wait to hear the good news is amazing. God protect them always.”

**- Pamela Vishwanath**  
Asst. Head, Rehab Team



Prison Ministry for me means reaching out to the hopeless and faithless and help with their reintegration back to God's Kingdom and into Society.

**- Hozefa Muchhala**  
Head, Communication/Media Team



For me meeting a Prisoner is an Act. Jesus clearly says when you visit a prisoner you visited me. I want to instill the ray of HOPE in the heart of every prisoner. I came across a man who was a brother of a prisoner. He came to me. I stated that I would fight his sister's case. But he couldn't believe that advocate won't fight freely because of his previous experiences. Though I promised him that I would help him, unfortunately, he committed suicide. That shook me, and from that time onwards, I am releasing prisoners. At present almost 125 prisoners I have released. They found HOPE in their life.

**- Sr. Sagaya M**  
Head, Legal Aid Team



I am truly blessed to be part of Prison Ministry Mumbai Unit and to head the 3:00 pm intercession. With a team of very dedicated and committed intercessors who keep aside all their other chores to partake in the 3:00 pm intercession, miracles have happened and members have come back to speak about them. I pray that God continues to bless this Ministry and bless each and every volunteer and their families. St. Maximilian Kolbe pray for us.

**- Jennifer D'Sa**  
Head, Intercessory Team



I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. These words have been a motivation for me to work with the brothers and sisters who are behind bars. It gives me joy and peace to work with them where they can experience light in their lives.

**- Sr. Annie**  
Head, Vocational & Skill Team



## ARTICLES

### Love for Humanity Ripples around the World

One's good work ripples around to humanity who is receptive and aware of goodness and the hands of God. As in the calm water if there is a touch or anything drops there is a ripple around the entire water and it reaches to the edge. When one comes into contact with joys and hopes, griefs and pain dedicates oneself to helping various people in most need such as prisoners and their families, juveniles and their families and so on. This kind of love for humanity ripples around the person who connected with him or her.

As an instance happened last month it made me wonder. An Advocate who practices law went to take vakalatnama and the Prisoner has been in jail for almost five years and there is no legal representation. When the Advocate went to the jail, he came to know that the prisoner was admitted in the hospital. The Advocate faced a lot of hurdles running from pillar to post searching for the prisoner and the hospital authority were not allowing to meet him. At the end of the day, he met him in his ward and was surprised that for four and half years no one visited him. He had an open-heart surgery at that time he was admitted for TB. When the Advocate visited him, his eyes were filled with



tears of joy, because since his arrest, that was the first time that someone was visiting him. In the same way a couple of times the Advocate visited the Prisoners generating God's unconditional Love to Humanity.

Whatever one does anything to other humans, one creates ripple effect and it affects others whether good or bad or sharing joy and love or kindness affects everyone. Our every action models others and unknowingly, people follow the good action that we do.

**- Sr. Sagayamary M**  
Head, Legal Aid Team



## Advent brings Hope

What it means to 'hope all things'

In I Cor. 13:7, it says, "love 'hopes all things'" (I Cor. 13:7).

The meaning of these words take shape with words of Pope Francis and the actions of Providence Sister, Dorothy Rasche of Indiana, USA.

In his apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love), Pope Francis comments on the words "love hopes all things." "The phrase speaks of the hope of one who knows that others can change, mature and radiate unexpected beauty and untold potential," he notes.

This explanation perfectly describes the love that Sister Dorothy feels for the female inmates she ministers to at the Rockville Correctional Facility in Rockville.

For her 24 years—and continuing—of serving in this capacity, she recently received the Corrections Ministry Service Award from the archdiocesan Corrections Ministry.

"I had been visiting men's and women's prisons for years," she told *The Criterion*. She said the late Father Joseph Kuran, who at the time was pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Rockville, "asked if any of the Sisters of Providence would be willing to go with him to the Correctional Facility, and I said yes. That was in October of 1997."

Each Friday evening from 7-8:30 p.m. she holds a Catholic worship service that all are invited to attend. The participants are currently involved in a Bible study on the Nicene Creed.

When asked what keeps her in the ministry, her answer is immediate: "Love of the women. I love them, and they love me."

Sister Dorothy specifically loves "their humanness. They're no different than any other person. They have the same problems, the same concerns, the same yearnings and desires as anyone else. They just happen to have gotten caught up in something ill and now are paying for it.

"Some of them are using this time to make life better for themselves and their families," she added.

In a press release about Sister Dorothy receiving the award, Corrections Ministry coordinator Deacon Marc Kellams stated that "95% of those who are imprisoned are eventually released. If they are released with a love of the Lord in their hearts, they have a much better chance to be successful and thus not recidivate. Recognizing [Sister Dorothy's] selfless service is a mere token of our appreciation.

"Ministry in the jails and prisons could not occur without the selfless acts of so many who have dedicated their time and prayer to serve. People like Sister Dorothy faithfully visit inside the walls and serve as the face of Christ to those who are so desperate for hope. Christ gives them that hope."

The women are not the only ones who benefit from Sister Dorothy's long term, loving presence.

"They strengthen my faith," she said of the women. "Seeing the faith they exhibit under the circumstances. Their hope, their resilience—they inspire me."

There are other groups in whom we as Catholics are called to "hope all things." They're often those marginalized by society—the poor, immigrants, refugees, the elderly, children, those with special needs, those suffering from an addiction.

You don't have to look far for them. Often, they exist within your own family or among your friends—a spouse seeking employment, a grandparent who wonders what they have to live for, a child struggling in school, a friend suffering from a substance abuse disorder.

Perhaps you can be the one to show someone who is struggling that you believe in them, that you see their beauty, that you trust in their potential—that you "hope all things" in them.

- Gloria Vaz  
Volunteer, Matunga Unit



**Day by day what you choose, what you think  
and what you do, is what you become.**

As you close your eyes in slumber  
Do you think GOD will say  
You have earned one more tomorrow  
By the works you did today.  
Were you there when I was put behind bars  
Were you there when I was languishing in the four walls  
Were you there when I was unjustly punished  
Were you there when my family felt all hope lost  
Yes as PMM volunteers , we swear today  
To pray incessantly for your reform, renewal  
and redemption  
To JESUS our powerhouse for whom nothing is  
IMPOSSIBLE  
Who will in turn tell us , you have earned your day today.  
Yes as PMM volunteers , we swear today  
To visit the jails, sub jails and remand homes  
To be Love bombs and see JESUS' face in each of our  
lost brethren  
Who will in turn tell us , you have earned your day today.  
Yes, as PMM volunteers , we swear today  
To visit your families, help you reunite and find yourself a  
beautiful creation  
As JESUS would say there is more joy in heaven over one  
repentant sinner  
Who will in turn tell us, you have earned your day today.  
Thus, as we finally close our eyes in everlasting sleep  
We are sure GOD will say  
You are with me in this heavenly paradise  
For the works you did every day.

- Nirmala Menezes  
Head, Rehab Team

**Dongri my reason for Joy**

As I looked into the sky one winter night,  
A flash of thought passed my mind,  
I felt its time my Lord divine  
To be reborn in my heart this Holy Night.  
What could the reason for this thought be  
Yes, busy cleaning my house  
Yet, I felt my heart need cleansing thee  
As we are approaching this beautiful time of his Birth.  
We have entered the awesome week  
So much to do during these advent weeks,  
How I need to prepare to welcome thee,  
In my heart, my mind, in my neighbourhood and  
everywhere.  
Each week we light a candle,  
A candle of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace  
It reminds me of my mission  
God's only Son was sent for this reason.  
Baby Jesus was born in the manger  
Among the sheep and shepherds strangers  
Humble though we need to live like a sheep  
And be connected to my shepherd in deep.

A call within a call to help my brethren  
behind the tall walls  
Which is truly an awesome calling,  
How can I ask for more than this?

Here I can share the gift of hope, faith, love, joy and  
Peace which my Baby Jesus gives.  
Thus, let's be joyful because we have a reason for this  
beautiful Season of Christmas.

- Maria Augusta  
Asst. Co-ordinator, Dongri Unit

**Reason for the Season - CHRIST**

The world today is entangled and wrapped with greed for  
wealth, power, popularity, injustice, violence leading to  
suffering . In God's eyes, there is no value We have turned  
away from God and don't know our way back.

God in his great love for us, promised to send his own Son  
to heal us of the wounds of sin and give us His new life of  
love, joy and peace ie CHRIST. He is Emmanuel that is  
"God-with-us". So CHRIST entered in our lives through  
the season of Christmas a feast of Joy amongst all people.  
God sent his messenger with a message "Behold I bring  
you good news of great joy for all people. Today is born a  
Saviour for you who is CHRIST our Lord". Let's rejoice  
that the immortal is born, so that mortal human beings  
may live in eternity.

- Damascene  
Co-ordinator, Arthur Road Jail

**Reason for the Season -  
Christ the Compassionate one.**

It's Christmas time the season of joy,  
God's son we await that beautiful baby boy.  
Behold he comes as a Babe down to earth,  
Conceived by the Spirit the Virgin gave birth.  
He is our God who died on the cross,  
The one who came to redeem the lost.  
I was the black sheep from his fold I did stray,  
Because of my crimes behind prison walls I now stay.  
But he looked and searched till he spotted me,  
Placed tenderly on his shoulder he set me free.  
What a privilege to be held close to his bosom,  
Uplifted by Jesus I am no longer lonesome.  
Though prison bars surround me yet my spirit is free,  
Lord, I am so glad you came looking for me.  
I no longer fear the deary dark night,  
For you Lord is that shining bright light.  
No more misery no more distress,  
Your grace and mercy has healed my brokenness.  
To raise me up you took the fall,  
So let's spread your message of love to all.  
Peace and goodwill to people on earth,  
Lord, I rejoice at your marvelous birth.

- Mrs. Lili P Vaz  
Volunteer – Dongri Unit



# BIBLE HUMOUR



**Who was the fastest runner in the bible?**

Answer: Adam because he was the first in the human race.

**What did Adam say on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December?**

Answer: It's Christmas Eve!

**What kind of car did the disciples drive?**

Answer: A Honda, because the Bible says they were all in one Accord.

**Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?**

Answer: Noah – he was floating his stock while the rest of the world was in liquidation.

**Who was known as a mathematician in the bible?**

Answer: Moses – he wrote the book of numbers.

**Who does the Bible say should make the tea?**

Answer: He brews.

**Why didn't they play cards on the ark?**

Answer: Noah was standing on the deck.

**Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?**

Answer: Samson – he brought the house down.

**How long did Cain hate his brother?**

Answer: As long as he was Able.

**What was Boaz like before he got married?**

Answer: He was Ruth-less.

**Why was everyone so poor in biblical times?**

Answer: Because there was only one Job.

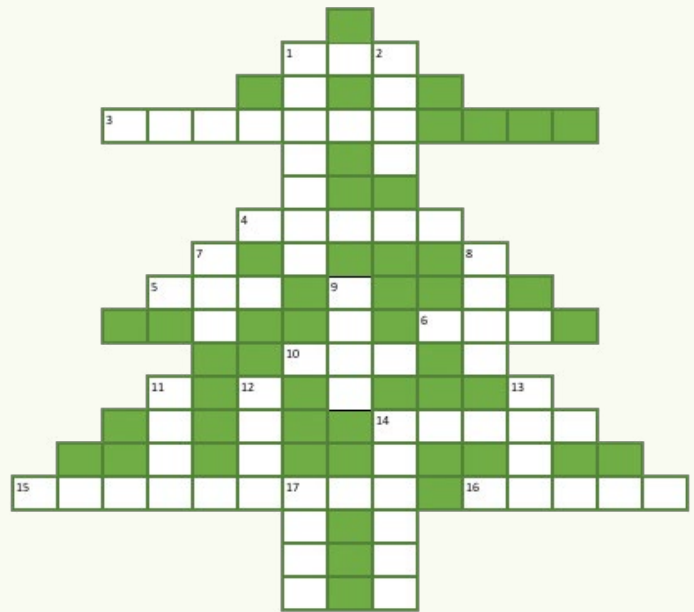
**Who was the first to play Tennis in the Bible...?**

Answer: Joseph, because he served in Pharaoh's Courts.

Have a wonderful Advent season



CROSS  
WORD



## ACROSS

- 1 The Little Drummer
- 3 God's Holy Messenger
- 4 The evil one
- 5 His birth brought ...to the World
- 6 Christmas drink (part 1)
- 10 A one-horse open carriage
- 14 Swans-a-Swimming
- 15 Santa kissed mama here
- 16 It is jingle all the way

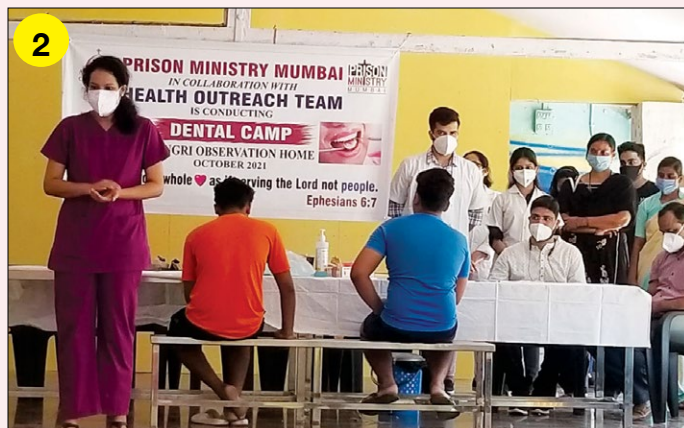
## DOWN

- 1 One of the Northpole Crew
- 2 Name for the Season
- 7 Christmas drink (part 2)
- 8 Gift bearing trio
- 9 A home for Baby Jesus
- 11 Christmas warmer
- 12 Sweet and spiced, fruity and nutty, rummy and yummy
- 13 Mrs. Santa's response to Ho Ho!
- 14 Santa's ride
- 17 Christmas decoration





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Dongri Observation Home Report (pgs 8-9)



Dongri Observation Home Report (pgs 8-9)



Kalyan Prison Report (pgs 6-7)



Thane Jail Report (page 8)



DSIS Matunga Report (pgs 10-11)



DSIS Matunga Report (pgs 10-11)



Mankhurd New Observation Home Report (page 10)