



# Hosanna

Newsletter of St. Paul's Church CNI Pune

(For private circulation only)

December 2024



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“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.”

Isaiah 9: 2

## From the Presbyter's desk

**Revd. Dr. Kenseelan Azariah**



Dear Friends in Christ, Greetings. By the grace of God we could successfully complete eleven months in this calendar year and God has blessed us with this new month.

December is a month of remarkable significance, marked by cultural, religious, seasonal, and historical importance. As the final month of the year, it holds a unique place in the calendar, symbolizing both reflection on the past and preparation for the future. With its festive atmosphere, seasonal transitions, and historical milestones, December is a month that resonates deeply with people across the globe.

December holds a profound spiritual significance that transcends cultural and religious boundaries. As the final month of the calendar year, it is a time of endings and beginnings, inviting individuals and communities to pause, reflect, and align with the rhythms of the natural and spiritual world. The themes of light, hope, and renewal that dominate December's traditions provide an opportunity for deep spiritual contemplation and growth.

December's holidays often share a common thread: the triumph of light over darkness. Christmas, for example, celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, who is often referred to as the "light of the world." This theme of divine illumination reflects the human yearning for spiritual guidance and the belief in a higher power that brings clarity and purpose to life. Similarly, Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, celebrates the miracle of light enduring against all odds, symbolizing faith and resilience. These traditions encourage individuals to nurture their inner light, embody hope, and remain steadfast in the face of challenges.

The end of the year also carries a spiritual call for reflection and renewal. It is a time to assess one's journey, express gratitude for blessings, and release past burdens. Many people engage in rituals, prayers, or meditative practices to cleanse the soul and prepare for a fresh start in the New Year. The practice of setting intentions or resolutions can be seen as a spiritual act of co-creation with the universe, inviting divine support in manifesting one's highest potential.

December's festivals often emphasize the interconnectedness of humanity and the divine. Kwanzaa, for instance, celebrates principles like unity and purpose, reminding us of the sacred bonds we share with one another. The gathering of loved ones during Christmas and other holidays reflects the spiritual truth that love and community are central to human existence. These celebrations invite us to see the divine in one another and to act with compassion, generosity, and kindness.

Additionally, December's seasonal transitions can serve as a metaphor for personal and spiritual growth. Just as the natural world enters a period of dormancy in preparation for renewal, individuals are encouraged to embrace moments of rest and introspection. The stillness of winter offers a chance to reconnect with the soul, rediscover one's purpose, and align with the greater cycles of life.

In essence, December is a month that calls humanity to recognize its place within the divine tapestry of existence. It is a time to honour the light within and around us, to celebrate the resilience of the human spirit, and to find meaning in both the endings and new beginnings that define life. Through its spiritual dimensions, December reminds us of our connection to the divine, to one another, and to the eternal rhythms of nature and the cosmos.

**Revd. K. Azariah**  
Priest-in-charge

### Reports from the Wings of St. Paul's Church -

<b>St. Paul's Youth Fellowship (SPYF)</b>		Youth Advisors – Mr. Benjamin and Mrs. Mrinal Johnson President – Mr. Rohan Rajkumar
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	The session was led by Mrs. Anubha Daniels on the topic "Power of the tongue"	
10 <sup>th</sup> November	The session was led by Mr. Benjamin Johnson from Genesis chp 34-36	
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Youth managed games stall and participated in the Harvest festival.	
24 <sup>th</sup> November	SPYF met for a time of fellowship.	

<b>St. Paul's Teen's Fellowship</b>	Advisors – Mr. G Kumar and Mrs. Vinodhini
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Greetings. We had Teen's Adventure Camp from 31<sup>st</sup> Oct to 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov at Camp Temgarh, Mulshi. Most of the sessions were activity based. The theme verse was John 15:1-8. Eight teens participated on the first day and six on the second day. The speakers were Jim Reeves (Delhi) and Samuel Joshua(Pune). Highlights of the camp → Practical sessions on Importance of Church & Fellowship, Staying connected, TeamWork. → Session on God & Science, Sanctification → Devotions based on the theme verses. → Barbeque night → Star gazing - Emphasising on the beauty of God's creation. → Trekking & Games

03-Nov-2024 – Praise & Worship – Planning for the Harvest Festival and the Christmas Programme. – A small devotion on James 1:2-8.

10-Nov-2024 – Practice for Christmas Programme. – A small devotion on James 1:9-11.

17-Nov- 2024 : Harvest Festival The Teens Fellowship stall put up some games and sold home made herbal lip balms prepared by one of the teens

24-Nov- 2024 – Praise & Worship – Practice for Christmas Programme. The teens participated as part of the St. Paul's Church team, in the Bible Quiz program hosted by Diocese of Pune.

**Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (WFCS)**

President – Mrs. Sophana Kenseelan  
 Secretary – Ms. Veronica Bhalerao

On 17<sup>th</sup> Nov ladies participated in the Church Harvest Festival and successfully managed the stall. Mrs. Sophana Kenseelan appreciates the ladies for their participation and support and bringing family and friends to this event.

On 24<sup>th</sup> Nov after church service the ladies gathered to practice for Christmas Tree program and discussed for the forthcoming events.

**St. Paul's Sunday School**

Superintendent – Mrs. Priscilla Victor

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov

**Sunday School Camp (Theme: Heroes of Faith)**

Venue: Gharkul Agri Tourism, Lavasa road

The resource people of this Camp were Mr. Yohan Dasanla and Mrs. Esther Dasanla. The children had a blessed and fun-filled time with meaningful Bible sessions, engaging activities, fun games, sumptuous food, campfire night and jungle walk.



3 <sup>rd</sup> November	<p>World Sunday School Day Praise &amp; Worship: by Mrs. Minhee Im, Mr. Kevin Victor &amp; Dr. Johnson World Sunday School Day Message: by Mrs. Priscilla Victor Devotion: by Dr. Helen Johnson on the Wisemen Games: by Ms. Neeta Victor This was followed by Breakfast and Christmas skit &amp; dance practice.</p>
10 <sup>th</sup> November	<p>Children's Day Praise &amp; worship: by Mrs Soniya Mudhaliar, Mr Kevin Victor &amp; Mrs Minhee Im Devotion: by Mrs. Milka Khanapur on Revelation This was followed by Christmas dance &amp; skit practice.</p>
17 <sup>th</sup> November	<p>Harvest Festival For the Harvest Festival, the Sunday School put up 3 stalls: 1. Lucky Dip Stall by Sunday School Teachers 2. Mini Olympics Games Stall by our Sunday School children: Mr. Vivaan Lodha, Mr. Daniel Charles, Ms. Hannah Ratna &amp; Ms. Ramona Bell. 3. Cupcake Stall by Ms. Sameeksha Mikili Total amount raised: ₹25,500(Lucky Dip) + ₹5,235(Mini Olympics) + ₹1,500(Cupcakes) = ₹32,235.</p>
24 <sup>th</sup> November	<p>Praise &amp; worship: by Mrs Soniya Mudhaliar, Mrs. Payal Madhu. Mr Kevin Victor &amp; Mrs Minhee Im Devotion: by Mrs. Nalini Singavarapu on Shepherds This was followed by Christmas skit &amp; dance practice.</p>

**Outreach Ministry**

**Saved to Serve**

Updates on St. Paul's church sponsorship of Mr. Shankar Jungare, missionary at Asgaon Church at Asgaon mission field, Dist. Chandrapur of Maharashtra Village Ministry (MVM).

Seekers Retreat was held and all participants were blessed. They studied from Matthew 26.

Sunday worship held at Asgaon and Moharna village. Total 40 regular worshiper attended the worship service.

Bible study took place at Nanded village. Studied from Matthew 28: 19-20  
Fasting and all-night prayer took place at Asgaon and Moharna village.

Personal Evangelism with 98 individuals.

House Visits: 10 homes visited.

Old and New Testament were distributed.

Bible tracks were distributed among people.

Pray for old people and for their health. Also pray for the missionary and his family.

God bless you all for your support and prayers.

### **Updates from St. Paul' Church office -**

Warm greetings to you all as we gear up for the winter festive months ahead.

The schedule for the Christmas and New Year festive season is put up on the notice board and will be added in the Hosanna.

Harvest festival was celebrated with much fervour and joy and the church members participated in the event, thanking the Lord for all that they have received from His bounty.

Diocese of Pune had organized Bible Quiz on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov – St. Paul's Church group participated in both Marathi and English quiz format. St. Pauls church team were winners in English and second winners in the Marathi quiz. We thank all the participants their families and members of our church who attended the event. Carol rounds are scheduled for various areas in the city of Pune, please inform the coordinators to plan their visit, if you are ready to welcome the carollers at your home.

Wishing a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year 2025 to all.

## Obituary –

Revd. Sushil Kumar Khilare a senior pastor of our Diocese who had also been a Presbyter-in-charge at St. Pauls Church passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov'24. Funeral was held on ICC on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov noon. Our deep condolences are with the family and friends of Late Revd. Sushil Kumar Khilare.

## Events in Church History

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of December 24 to  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of January 25

### December

14 Gopinath Nundy, of Fatehpur (baptized 1832): Convert, Confessor

17 Ignatius of Antioch (about 107): Bishop, Theologian, Martyr

28 The Holy Innocents  
Krishna Pal, of Serampore (baptized 1800): Convert

### January

01 **The Naming of Jesus**

The Renewal of the Covenant (or on the first Sunday of the year)

*Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, of Dornakal (1945): Bishop, Evangelist*

02 *Daniel Wilson (1858): Bishop*

## Messages from the Pulpit

Sunday sermons

### 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024

1<sup>st</sup> reading --- Micah 6:2-8

2<sup>nd</sup> reading --- 1 John 4:16-21

**Theme: 'The Greatest commandment'**

**Message by Rev. Dr. Mithra.**

The world Mission Sunday is celebrated this day, which began on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples that were waiting after Jesus' Ascension in the book of Acts chapters 1 and 2. A scribe asked Jesus about what is the greatest commandment of all. For which Jesus answered \* to love your God and \* to love your neighbor as you would love yourself. Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments into these two. If I may bring all the acres of land I own and the treasures that I have and offer it to God and have no reverence and show no obedience towards God, then those gifts would do no good in bringing me close to God. As St. Paul says in Romans 12:1 to present yourself as a living sacrifice to God. Sacrificing your will and accepting HIS. Three things the Lord require of you-- \* Act Justly, \* be merciful, \* be humble.

### **10<sup>th</sup> November 2024,**

**1<sup>st</sup> reading --- Exodus 35:20-29**

**2<sup>nd</sup> reading --- 2 Corinthians 8:1-9**

**Theme: 'Generous offering'**

**Message by Rev. Dr. Kenseelan Azariah**

God told Moses to build a tabernacle so that HE could dwell among them and we see in Exodus 36: 2-7, that the Israelites offered generously for the building of the tabernacle. Their offerings were so generous that the workers were unable to start the construction of the tabernacle because they were kept busy in collecting the generous offerings that were coming in. Moses had to announce to stop giving. When we enjoy God's blessing we give generously, we give the best and without grumbling. There is another instance in the book of Exodus 32:1—when Moses was with God at the mountain, the people gave up waiting for Moses and asked Aaron to lead them. He asked them to bring their ornaments and he made them a golden calf. Here also, the people made generous offerings but this act brought God's curse and anger on the people. So thus, it is important to discern where and to whom to give.

### **17<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> reading --- 8:7-18**

**2<sup>nd</sup> reading --- 1 Timothy 6:6-11**

**Message by Rev. Dr. Kenseelan Azariah**

Harvest celebration is the act of thanking God for all the blessings, which we receive from HIS hands. We thank God for HIS wonderful gift of rain and sunshine. Amos 4:7-8 shows us that God alone has the power to withhold rain from falling down on earth. We ought to recognize HIS authority over everything by just showing the right attitude of gratitude. Instead of boasting on our ability and hard work let us humble ourselves in HIS presence.

\*Deuteronomy 8:18 speaks to us that it is the LORD who gives us the ability to produce wealth. Nebuchadnezzar was a mighty king and had all the power with him. He had built magnificent cities for his own glory but he became so filled with pride that he forgot to glorify God, who allowed HIM to be a king at the first place. It is God alone who raise up kings and even brings them down. At once, he was cursed and was thrown into the wilderness where he lived like a wild beast for seven years. Therefore, always humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. \* Deuteronomy 8:19 says that if we forget the Lord our God, then we shall surely be cursed. Therefore, let us look back and count all those numerous blessings of our God, which HE from time to time most graciously has blessed us.

### **24<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> reading --- Isaiah 42:1-4**

**2<sup>nd</sup> reading --- Revelation 5:1-10**

**Theme: 'The good confession made by Jesus Christ'**

**Message by Rev. Dr. Kenseelan Azariah**



Confessions have a negative connotation where people confess their sins to the priest/God in order to clear their conscience. Confession also means declaration. In the Gospel passage that was read, i.e. John 18:33-37, we see that Jesus declares that 'HE IS THE KING'. According to the Gospel the qualities that are required for us to be a citizen of the kingdom of God are; \*1 John 4:7-11 describes what kind of people we ought to be. That we should love one another, which is possible only when God lives in us, the one who is born of God. \* John 18:36-37, speaks of an upside down kingdom where our king (Christ Jesus) is gentle, meek, and kind. The principles and the doctrines of this kingdom differs from the principles of the earthly kingdom. In God's kingdom, there are no boundaries, race, color or ethnicity. Kingdoms come and go but HIS kingdom is forever. Here the king came to serve and not to serve and thus all those who want to be a citizen of the kingdom must first be servants. Let us strive to uphold the statutes and the principles of the kingdom of God as taught to us by our Lord Himself and prepare ourselves along with our families and friends to usher into the era of the Millennial rule of the eternal king, the Righteous one of Israel, Lord Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

### Church Sunday Worship Service Schedule

Date/Time	Worship Service	Volunteer
08-December-2024	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Christmas (Advent 2)</b> Theme – The Old Testament is fulfilled in Christ.	
8:00 AM	Old Testament – Deut. 18: 13 – 19	Mr Gunnampaty Kumar
The Lord's Supper	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading – Acts 3: 18 – 26	Mr Mathew Lobo
	Gospel – Luke 24: 44 – 48	Presbyter
	Element Bearers	Col Moses & Mrs Jasmine Sibloon
6:00 PM Eve Worship	Theme - The Old Testament is fulfilled in Christ.	
15-December-2024	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Christmas (Advent 3)</b> Theme – The message of John the Baptist.	
8:00 AM	Old Testament – Isaiah 35: 1 – 6, 10	Miss Leona Khanapur
The Lord's Supper	Psalm – 28: 1 – 3, 6 – 7, 9	Lay Leader
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading – Acts 19: 1 – 6	Ms Anaha Carunia
	Gospel – Mark 1: 01 – 8	Presbyter
	Element Bearers	Mr John & Mrs Irene Smith
7:00 PM	<b>Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols</b>	

Date/Time	Worship Service	Volunteer
22-December-2024	<b>Sunday before Christmas (Advent 4)</b> Theme - At Christmas we welcome Jesus who is like us in every way, apart from sin.	
8:00 AM  The Lord's Supper	Old Testament – Isaiah 49: 1 – 6	Mrs Sandhya Mikkili
	Epistle – Heb. 2: 10 – 11, 14 – 18	Mrs Payal John
	Gospel – Luke 1: 39 – 49	Presbyter
	Element Bearers	Mr Ronald & Anila Soans
6:00 PM Eve Worship	Theme - At Christmas we welcome Jesus who is like us in every way, apart from sin.	
24-December-2024	<b>Christmas Eve Lord's Supper Service</b> Theme – The birth of the Saviour who is the Word made flesh.	
11:00 PM  The Lord's Supper	Old Testament – Micah – 5: 2 – 4	Col Pradeep Paul
	Psalm – 98: 1 – 5	Lay Leader
	Epistle – Titus 3: 4 – 7	Mrs Anubha Daniel
	Gospel – Luke 2: 1 – 16	Presbyter
	Element Bearers	Mr Niranjan & Mrs Nayana Swarge
25-December-2024  8:00 AM The Lord's Supper	<b>Christmas Day</b> Theme – The birth of the Saviour who is the Word made flesh.	
29-December-2024	<b>Sunday after Christmas</b> Theme – Family life.	
8:00 AM  The Lord's Supper	Old Testament – Zechariah 8: 3 – 6	Mr Oliver Kaunds
	Psalm 128	Lay Leader
	Epistle – Col 3: 12 – 21	Mrs Priya Franklin
	Gospel – Luke 2: 41 - 52	Presbyter
	Element Bearers	Lt Gen Noble & Mrs Anita Thamburaj
6:00 PM The Lord's Supper	Theme – Family life.	
31-December-2023 11.00 PM	<b>New Year's Eve Covenant Service along with the Lord's Supper</b>	
01-January-2025	<b>New Year's Day Covenant Service - Naming of Jesus</b> Theme – The Name of Jesus.	
8:00 AM  The Lord's Supper	Old Testament – Joel 2: 28 – 32	
	Psalm – 20: 1 – 5, 7 – 8	Lay Leader
	Epistle – Romans 10: 9 – 13	
	Gospel – Luke 2: 15 – 21	Presbyter
	Element Bearers	

Date/Time	Worship Service	Volunteer
05-January-2025	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas</b> Theme – We are shares in the Sonship of Christ.	
8:00 AM The Lord's Supper	Old Testament – Jeremiah 31: 1, 7 – 9	Mr Navin Suren
	Psalm – 103: 8 – 14	Lay Leader
	Epistle – Romans 8: 11 – 17	Mr Samuel Angre
	Gospel – John 1: 9 – 18	Presbyter
	Element Bearers	Mr Arun & Mrs Vasantha Thomas
6:00 PM The Lord's Supper	Theme – We are shares in the Sonship of Christ.	

### Birthdays– (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Dec'2024 to 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of Jan'2025)

Birthdays in December			
01	Mrs Dorothy Moses	12	Ms. Anaha Carunia
	Michelle Felton		Mrs. Sandhya Mikkili
02	Mrs Bhavana Puri	14	Mr. Manjul Patlia
03	Mr Gunnampaty Kumar	15	Mr. Ketan Chakranarayan
	Kiara Singh		Col. Pradeep Paul
05	Mr Nelson Bell		Mrs. Suranga Bunter
	Mrs Rachel Pereira	16	Ms. Shanila Pandhare
	Aarul Daniel	18	Mr. Jim Charles
	Joanna Shrisunder		Arin Chakranarayan
06	Mr Nicholas Pillay	19	Dr. Ranjan Kelkar
	Mr Niranjan Swarge	21	Mrs. Aiman Wordsworth
	Mrs Suguna Dhanraj		Mrs. Anubha Daniel
07	Mr Bhen Samson	22	Ms. Sara Eapen
08	Mrs Shalini Bell		Castiel Gnanaraj
	Mr Eugene Bankapur		Mr. Manoj Adhav
	Deona Kaunds	23	Mr. Anil Bhalerao
10	Mr Mathew Lobo		Felicia Samuel
	Mrs Payal John		Mr. Jabez Singh
	Ms Angela Singh		Rohan Mekala
	Jeffrey Samuel	24	Mrs. Priyadarshini Domathoti
	Isac Melvinraj		Ayden Kamath
11	Ms Pearl Jacobie	25	Mrs. Lata Wairagar
	Leona Khanapur		Mrs. Kokil Paul
	Giana Jadhav		Dr. Ms. Alpana Godbole
			Mrs. Shelby Mitra

<b>Birthdays in December</b>			
26	Mr. Abhay Bhalerao	30	Rev. Devdas Matcha
27	Mr. Richard Joseph	31	Vivaan Lodha
	Tanmay Adhav		Mrs. Minna Pathak
	Mrs. Sanaya Adenwala	<b>“ HAPPY BIRTHDAY “</b>	
28	Mrs. Priya Franklin		
	Mr. Oliver Kaunds		
	Mr. Jeffrey Sathik		
<b>Birthdays in January</b>			
01	Rev. Dr. Kenseelan Azariah	02	Mr. Vinoo Ninan
	Mr. Samuel Angre		Joshua Jeyakumar
	Mr. Navin Suren		Giftson Madhu
			Mr. Vinay Shantwan
		03	Mr. Abhinav Gill

### Wedding Anniversaries –

**(1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of December'2024 to 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of January'2025)**

<b>Anniversary in December</b>	
01	Mrs Archana & Dr Sanjay Christian
06	Mrs Uma & Mr Kunal Chakranarayan
07	Mrs Selina & Mr Sirish Chandran
	Mrs Richa & Mr Daniel Bhalerao
09	Mrs Aparna & Arpan Suryavanshi
12	Mrs Sujatha Mallic Kumar & Mr Balachandran
14	Mrs Ann & Mr Samuel Shrisunder
16	Mrs Rebecca & Mr Lawrence Dubois
17	Mrs Rajsee & Mr Rohit Salvi
18	Mrs Suranga & Mr John Bunter
20	Mrs Anita & Dr Aharon Bansode
21	Mrs Deepa & Mr Viji Paul
	Mrs Annie & Mr Mark Deane
	Mr Kenneth & Mrs Lavina Samuel
22	Mrs Pooja & Mr Richard Joseph
23	Mrs Valerie & Mr Rohit Issac
27	Mrs Lorraine & Mr Nicholas Pillay
	Mrs Vibhuti & Mr Vinit Jadhav
27	Mr Neil & Mrs Claire Nadkar
	Mrs Anubha & Mr Sandeep Daniel

<b>Anniversary in December</b>	
27	Mrs Neha & Mr Reuel Chinthala
	Mrs Priya & Mr Daniel Rogers
28	Mrs Vijaya & Rt Rev Andrew Rathod
	Mrs Grace & Mr Enoch Daniels
	Mrs Milka & Mr Leslie Khanapur
	Mrs Nandita & Mr Bhen Samson
	Mrs Salome & Mr Senith Samuel
	Mrs Nandini & Mr Griffith Kaunds
	Mrs Aarti & Mr Dilip Bhalerao
	Mrs Elizabeth John & Mr Santosh George
	Mr Biswajit & Mrs Shelby Mitra
	Mrs Gabriella & Mr Ernest Sankeshwar
29	Mrs Serena & Mr Arun David
	Mrs Minna & Mr Sandeep Pathak
	Mrs Dorothy & Mr Pon Moses
	Mrs Alisha & Mr Abhinav Gill
30	Mrs Abhilasha & Mr Ajay Salvi
	Mrs Minoti & Mr Sanjay Salvi
	Mrs Amutha Mr V Rajesh Madhu
<b>Anniversary in January</b>	
02	Mrs Leticia & Mr Franklin Bell
	Mrs Juliet & Mr Ravindra Sable
	Mrs Rebecca & Mr Littu Kurien
03	Mrs Yvonne & Lt Cdr Kantish Jadhav
04	Mrs Vanita & Mr Vilas Bhalerao
	Mrs Motimary & Mr Melville Kaunds
	Mrs Nayana & Mr Niranjan Swarge
	Mrs Deepti Korabandi & Mr Clarion Smith

**Prayer Requests –**

1. Pray for Aged, Sick and the Housebound
  - a. Mrs. Rachel Chacko
  - b. Mr. Virgil Daniels

2. Pray for Missionaries/Organizations Supported

#	Organization Name	Missionary Supported
1	Indian Evangelical Mission (IEM)	Mr. Shrikant (Washim Mission Field)
2	Maharashtra Village Ministries (MVM)	Mr. Shankar Jungare (Asgaon Mission Field)
3	Indian Missionary Society (IMS)	Mr. Motilal Joel (Pentri Mission Field, Gadchiroli)
4	The National Missionary Society of India (NMSI)	Mrs. Sumalatha Reguntwar (Nandgaon Mission Field, Chandrapur)
5	Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB)	Mr. Shrinivas Rao (Jawahar Mission Field, Palghar)
6	Mission to the Blind (MTB)	Mr. Manoj Tayade (Pune Mission Field, Pune)
7	Children Evangelism Fellowship of India (CEF)	Mr. Yohan (Ministering at St. Crispin's Home on behalf of St. Paul's Church)

**Donations –**

**Bank Name: BANK OF INDIA, Pune Main**  
**Account Name: THE SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH**  
**Account No.: 050010100069789**  
**IFSC Code: BKID0000500**  
**MICR Code: 411013002**



All Donations in cash/cheque to the wings of St Paul's Church, Pune – 1, viz. Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, Women's Fellowship and Medical Fellowship, are to be given to the Hon Treasurer of the Church Pastorate Committee who will issue a Receipt and account the same and the information of the Donation will be intimated to the particular church wing and given to them for the said purpose. All cheques are to be crossed and drawn in favor of '**The Society of St Paul's Church**'.

**Kindly remember to inform the Hon Treasurer or send an Email to [stpaulchurchpune@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulchurchpune@gmail.com) mentioning your Name, Amount and Purpose of Giving.**

Donations can be made for the following causes / purposes which need to be clearly mentioned:

- a) Donation to needy Churches / Diocese / Priest
- b) Donation to Christian and Missionary Organization
- c) Donation to Poor, Needy & Sick
- d) Financial support to Theological Students & Institutes
- e) Feeding of the Poor
- f) Sponsoring Pastors’ Children’s Education of Pune Diocese – CNI

Church Subscription / Freewill Offering / Tithe / Thanksgiving Offering / Donations in the form of financial giving towards specific purpose can also be made through Bank Transfer.

Donations towards “**Church Building Maintenance**” can be made through bank transfer to;

**Bank Name – BANK OF BARODA**

**Account No.- 75980100000094**

**Account Name – Society of St. Paul’s Church**

**IFSC Code – BARB0VJCAMP (Fifth character is zero)**

**MICR Code – 411012074**

**Church Services**

<b>Sunday</b>	8-9:30 am – The Lord’s Supper (Holy Communion Service)  6-7:30 pm – The Lord’s Supper (HC Service) – 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays  6-7:30 pm - Evening Worship Service - 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:30-8 am – The Lord’s Supper (Holy Communion Service)
<b>Thursday</b>	8:15-8:45 am – The Lord’s Supper (Holy Communion Service)
<b>Friday</b>	7:30-8 am – The Lord’s Supper (Holy Communion Service)

**Other Activities**

<b>Sunday</b>	8:15-9:30 am – Sunday School for Children  8:30-9:30 am – Teens Fellowship meeting – 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays  10:00-11:30 am – Youth Fellowship meeting - 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays
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	10:00-11:00 am – WFCS meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday  10:00-11:00 am – St. Paul’s Medical Fellowship meeting on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sundays
<b>Friday</b>	6:30-7:30 pm – Choir Practice
<b>Saturday</b>	3 pm to 5pm – Women’s Prayer Group (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturdays)  3 pm to 5pm – Fasting Prayer meeting (2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturdays)
<b>As per schedule</b>	Cottage Prayer Meetings - as decided by groups

**MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ABOUT CHANGE OF NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER.  
 CHILDREN OF MEMBERS AGED 18 AND ABOVE SHOULD SUBMIT A SEPARATE MEMBERSHIP FORM AT THE CHURCH OFFICE, IF NOT DONE ALREADY.  
 PLEASE UPDATE CHURCH DATABASE BY ENTERING DETAILS ONLINE @  
<https://zfrmz.in/sNMsRwm8M5d7qyvlsri5>**





## CHILDREN'S CORNER



### **Star Shepherd**

As David says in Psalms 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Both kids and grown-ups love to look at the stars on clear nights! It can be a hobby, a study of the stars, or just a fun activity.

As we admire the stars and planets, let's also remember our Creator, God, who made all the wonders in the sky.



The starry night we see today is nothing compared to the glory that God showed when He sent His Son Jesus to Earth. While shepherds were watching their sheep, the sky suddenly lit up with angels praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest."

Even wise men from far away came to worship the King when God placed the brightest star in the east, leading them to Bethlehem. This Christmas story of our Savior's birth has been remembered and celebrated for more than 2000 years. It brings hope, joy, and peace to our hearts and lives. We all love to celebrate Christmas! Who doesn't? The season is filled with decorations, carols, and cakes. The fun and happiness don't stop at home but also at our Church, where all the Sunday School children come together to practice for Christmas Play which includes singing, and dance for the Christmas Tree function!

It's a time of fun and bonding. Amid all the joyful celebrations, we must remember the reason for the season, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whose birth, life, death on the cross, and resurrection brought salvation for all.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

In this Christmas season, we can call Him our Star Shepherd because He:

- Goes before His sheep to find the best pasture and knows the best places to rest, leading us to the best (Psalms 23).



- Cares for each one of us like shepherds care for their sheep, protecting us from all evil. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil" (Psalms 23).
- Will not leave us lost in this world. As Jesus says in the Gospel of Luke, the shepherd leaves the 99 sheep and searches for the lost one until he finds it. Our God cares about everyone, including you and me! (Luke 15:3-5).
- Has a personal relationship with each one of us. "I know my sheep and my sheep know me" (John 10:14).

As Prophet Isaiah says in 40:26, "... He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one is missing."

Are the stars out tonight? Rejoice! The Star Shepherd cares for you.

**Blessed Christmas!**

By Victor Dhayalan



### **Advent: A Time for Kids?**

Advent talks about the first coming and the Second coming of the Lord. The first one has been recorded in history and the second one epitomizes hope and expectation. As far as history is concerned, we look back to learn the lessons it teaches. The second one teaches us patient expectation.

At the outset I must confess that I had not heard about Advent until I was eighteen years old. In the area I was born, the time of Advent was never heard of. Perhaps many members of St. Paul's today who have come from many parts of this country might not have heard of it as well. Yet it is very good to know about Advent and Christmas, so that we prepare ourselves to meaningfully participate in them.

#### **A Creedal Comma:**

Are Advent and Christmas a time for the kids? Let us look at the creeds we confess in our Church services. The creeds say Jesus was "Born of the Virgin Mary, crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died and was buried". And then in the next sentence the Creed talks about his glorification. In this Creedal formulation what is not explained is His whole life and ministry on the earth. In all the Creeds the emphasis is not the person of Christ but the salvation of humankind. There was a big gap between Jesus' birth and His crucifixion. There was no mention about the earthly life of our Lord.

Even the hymns we sing during Advent and Christmas talk about Jesus' childhood and do not mention the earthly life of Jesus except hymn no 78 in our hymn book "The heavenly child in stature grows." This hymn was written by Jean-Baptiste de Santeus, a poet and musician who tried to take us through the earthly life of Jesus. But "Gentle Jesus, meek and mild," by Charles Wesley was not based on the gospels. And the details mentioned in hymn number 432 "And through all His wondrous childhood" which is stanza three of "Once in royal David city" written by Cicil Francic Alexander, are not found in the gospels. The question we may have to ask is if Jesus was passive, mild and gentle, why did He get crucified? Those qualities attributed to Jesus have very little verification in the gospels. On the contrary the description of Jesus as charismatic, gregarious, and incisive, is much more easily substantiated in the gospels. (John L Bell, UK).

Let us remember the birth narratives of Jesus found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Some information is given about the risk factors involved in his mother being pregnant and giving birth in the Palestinian context of the first century. Let us also think about the need for the family fleeing as refugees. Do you think these less savory elements of the story add or subtract from its significance?

In the present-day socio-political context of the world, how can we celebrate a meaningful Christmas?

The usual way is to feast and enjoy with friends and families and with all paraphernalia, and simply ignore the reality of children in many parts of the world, ravaged by wars and even natural calamities.

May God grant us a meaningful Christmas this year.

**By Revd. Devdas Matcha**

## **Christmas 2024 & New Year 2025**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>06-Dec-2024 (Friday)</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Carol Rounds Day-1</b>
<b>07-Dec-2024 (Saturday)</b>	<b>4:15 PM</b>	<b>Sunday School Christmas Party</b>
<b>07-Dec-2024 (Saturday)</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Carol Rounds Day-2</b>
<b>08-Dec-2024 (Sunday)</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>WFCS Christmas Party</b>
<b>13-Dec-2024 (Friday)</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Carol Rounds Day -3</b>
<b>14-Dec-2024 (Saturday)</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Parish Christmas Tree Program followed by Contributory Dinner</b>
<b>15-Dec-2024 (Sunday)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols</b>
<b>24-Dec-2024 (Tuesday)</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Lords Supper service</b>
<b>24-Dec-2024 (Tuesday)</b>	<b>11:00 PM</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Lords Supper service</b>
<b>25-Dec-2024 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Christmas – Lords Supper service</b>
<b>31-Dec-2024 (Tuesday)</b>	<b>11:00 PM</b>	<b>New Years Eve – Covenant service along with Lord supper</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2025 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>New Years Covenant service with Lords supper</b>

**Merry Christmas  
and  
A Happy New Year 2025**

*Peace On Earth*