



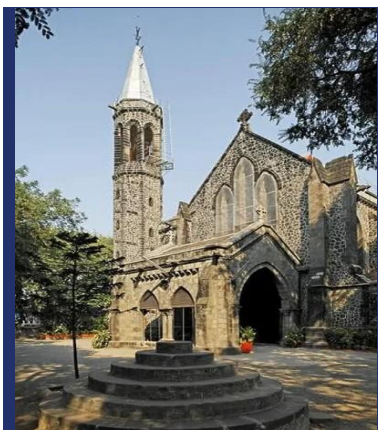
# HOSANNA

## OCTOBER 2025

(ST. PAUL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)



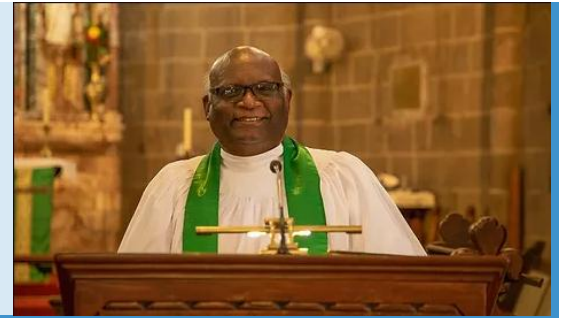
<b>Presbyter-In-Charge</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. Kenseelan Azariah</b>	+91 982 260 2858
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Mr. Niranjana Swarghe	+91 976 371 6778
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Mr. S. J. V. Chelliah	+91 915 850 6703
<b>Lay-Leaders</b>	Dr. Mrs. Vasantha Thomas, Mr. Nelson Bell & Dr. Emmanuel Rathod	
<b>Organists</b>	Mr. Lalith James, Ms. Mellonie Sahu & Mr. Benjamin Johnson	
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<b>Wardens</b>	Mr. Franklin Bell, Mr. Vinit Jadhav, Mr. Prashant Gaikwad, Mr. Ketan Chakranarayan	
<b>Office Assistant</b>	Mr. Ajay Anand	+91 915 814 0157
<b>Church sexton</b>	Mr. Rakesh Chandorkar	+91 989 010 0690
<b>Hosanna editorial team</b>	Mrs. Priya Dsouza, Mr. M. K. Waghmare	



*“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”* Isaiah 43:18–19

# From the Presbyters Desk

Revd. Dr. Kenseelan Azariah



Dear Friends in Christ, October is often seen as a turning point in the year. The harvest season reminds us of God's provision, while the gradual closing of the year points us to reflection and preparation. For many, October brings both gratitude for the months gone by and hope for the months ahead.

God is the Author of new beginnings. He is not limited by our past mistakes, our failures, or even our disappointments. In Isaiah 43, God tells Israel to stop dwelling on the past because He is doing something new. This message invites us to trust God for fresh starts and to embrace His new mercies this October.

## 1. Forget the Past – Don't Dwell There

God says: *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past"* (Isaiah 43:18). Israel was tempted to live in their memories—whether in past glories of Egypt's deliverance or the pain of Babylon's exile. But God wanted them to look forward. A driver cannot go forward if he is always staring in the rear-view mirror. The same is true for our spiritual journey. Philippians 3:13–14 – Paul says, *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal..."* October is a reminder not to live in regret or nostalgia. God is calling us to trust Him for what lies ahead.

## 2. Embrace the New Thing God is Doing

God promises: *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"* (Isaiah 43:19). Character Example: Ruth, the Moabite

widow, left her past behind in Moab and trusted God in Bethlehem. Through that new beginning, she became part of the lineage of Jesus Christ (Ruth 1–4). Corrie Ten Boom once said, *“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”* Farmers sow in hope, trusting that unseen seeds will produce a future harvest. In the same way, we must believe that God’s new beginnings will bear fruit in our lives. What new thing is God birthing in you this month? A fresh ministry? A new relationship restored? A renewed passion for prayer and Scripture? Step into it with faith.

### **3. God Makes a Way Where There Seems to Be No Way**

God says: *“I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland”* (Isaiah 43:19). This means God can open doors where none exist. He can refresh us even in dry seasons. The Israelites at the Red Sea thought their story was over, but God opened a way through the waters (Exodus 14). *“God will make a way, where there seems to be no way...”* (Don Moen). This song echoes Isaiah’s truth: God specializes in impossibilities. No matter how dry your October feels, trust that God can provide living water in your wilderness.

Beloved, October is not just another month—it is a season to embrace God’s new beginnings. Forget the past, embrace His new work, and trust Him to make a way. Let us enter this month with hope, declaring: *“Great is His faithfulness; His mercies are new every morning”* (Lamentations 3:23).

As we step into October, having great faith in His promises, let us ask Him to help us to release our past, to embrace our new plans, and to walk with faith into the future we are preparing for us. May we see streams in our deserts and new life springing forth all around us.

God Bless you, have a blessed and safe October.

## Reports from the various wings of St. Paul's Church

<b>St. Paul's Youth Fellowship (SPYF)</b>	<b>Advisors – Mr. Bhen &amp; Mrs. Nandita Samson</b> <b>President – Mr. Rohan Rajkumar</b>
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7<sup>th</sup> September- Ms. Neeta Victor led the session on the topic Grace v/s Works.

14<sup>th</sup> September- Mr. G Kumar led the session on the book of Habakkuk.

21<sup>st</sup> September- Mr. Benjamin Johnson led the session from Matthew chp.13 v.31-34 on the Parable of the Mustard seed and Yeast.

28<sup>th</sup> September- No session due to AGM

<b>St. Paul's Teens Fellowship</b>	<b>Advisors – Mr. G Kumar &amp; Mrs. Vinodhini</b>
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Greetings. We had 3 sessions in September 2025

14<sup>th</sup> September 2025- Praise & Worship followed by a Session on "Knowing God's through God's wisdom" by Mrs Serena David.

21<sup>st</sup> September 2025 - Praise & Worship followed by a Session on "The Significance of Praise and Worship in Everyday Life" by Mr Sandeep Daniel.

28<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - Praise & Worship followed by a Session on "Handling Fear" by Mrs Serena David.

<b>Women's Fellowship For Christian Service (WFCS)</b>	<b>President – Mrs. Sophana Kenseelan</b> <b>Secretary – Mrs. Rhitu Bell</b>
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The WFCS met after the Sunday morning worship service on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025. The key highlights included:

- Singing of Hymn#311 – "Lead us heavenly Father lead us"
- Discussion on planning for the Harvest Festival
- Brainstorming activities to bless WFCS members
- Scripture reading from Isaiah 6:1-6
- A short message from Mrs. Vijaya Rathod on the above scripture

The meeting concluded with a prayer.



**St. Paul's Sunday School  
(SPSS)**
**Superintendent – Mrs. Priscilla Victor**

7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025 Teacher's Day: On the occasion of Teachers' Day, the time of Praise and Worship was led by the Intermediate and Junior classes, with a few children from the Primary class also joining in. They also staged a skit called "The Sunday School Garden." It beautifully brought out the value of Sunday School teachers, while weaving in the message of the Fruit of the Spirit. At its heart, the skit reminded everyone that God is the greatest teacher of all. As a token of appreciation, marigold plants were gifted to all Sunday School teachers. G Hannah Ratna sang a special song & Sameeksha Mikkili shared a heartfelt original poem for the teachers. The class time led by the Intermediate children, who engaged everyone with fun activities and games based on the topics "Jesus Feeds the 5000" and "Moulded for Purpose by His Hands" (Jeremiah 18:1-6). It was a joyful and memorable celebration & our Sunday School teachers felt loved, honoured, and blessed.

14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025 Praise & worship: by Ms Neeta Victor along with a few Sunday School children: Eliana Laloo, Shania Dcosta & Tanisha Ramteke Devotion: by Mrs Minhee Im on Ephesians 6:10-18 – Armour of God After the general assembly, there were regular classes.

21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025 Praise & worship: by Ms Minhee Im Devotion: by Ms Neeta Victor on Matthew 9:9-13 – Jesus Calls Matthew After the general assembly, there were regular classes.

28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025 Praise & worship: by our Sunday School children: Ivan Benjamin, Grace Im, Evelyn Benjamin & Mr Tanmay Adhav Devotion: by Mrs Priscilla Victor on Matthew 25:1-13 – the

Parable of the 10 virgins After the general assembly, there were regular classes.

Our Sunday School teachers are putting a lot of effort in imparting the Word of God. All glory to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

- Priscilla Victor (Sunday School Superintendent)

### **Outreach Ministry**

### **Saved to Serve**

Updates on St. Paul's Church sponsorship of Mr. Mothilal, missionary at Pentri and Bhagwanpur mission field, at Gadchiroli Dist. Maharashtra of Indian Missionary Society (IMS) a missionary organisation,

God helped us to reach 8 villages nearby and share the Good news. Six hours fasting and prayers conducted at Potegaon church in Bhagwanpur. 80 believers attended prayer meeting.

Sunday school conducted in 7 villages around Pentri and Bhawanpur mission field.

Women's meeting conducted at 4 places nearby. All were blessed. Sewing classes started at various places, so that families can earn their livelihood from it.

Construction work of a small hostel for children at Bhagwanpur is in progress.

Praise points:

1. Praise God for as one of believer has got discharged from the hospital after the successful surgery on her and she is doing well.
2. Praise God for one of the believer's prayers been answered as he and family can earn for their living.

Prayer Points:

1. Please do pray for the construction work of a hostel
2. Please do pray for the sick and old.
3. Please pray for missionary Mr. Mothilal Joel and his family.

Fasting and prayer at Potegaon ChurchHostel building construction workFoundation stone laying prayerHostel building construction work in progress**In & Around St. Paul's Church**

We had a successful AGM conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> Sep 2025.

Following new members got elected to the Pastorate Committee (PC).

1. Mrs. Susan Kurian
2. Ms. Sanika Mohite
3. Mr. S J V Chelliah
4. Mr. Lawrence Dubois

The PC held its first meeting on 3rd October 2025, during which Mr. Niranjan Swarge was selected as Honorary Secretary and Mr. S. J. V. Chelliah as Honorary Treasurer for the term 2025-26.

The Pastorate Committee extends heartfelt thanks to the outgoing members — Mr. Jim Charles, Mr. Lamuel Daruwala, Mrs. Rajashree Kaunds, and Mrs. Minoti Salvi — for their dedicated service.

PC thanks Mrs. Minoti Salvi for her exemplary tenure as Honorary Secretary, and for her unwavering commitment and contributions to the church.

### Upcoming Events

- St. Paul's Sunday school children and Teens Fellowship are planning to have a retreat at Nasrapur on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October.
- Thanksgiving Sunday will be observed on 2nd November 2025.
- The Harvest Festival is scheduled for 16th November 2025, with Ms. Sanika Mohite serving as the Convenor.

### Events in Church History

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of October'25 to 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of November'25

#### October

06 **Thomas, Apostle of India**

15 *Teresa of Avila (1582): Nun, Mystic*

16 *Henry Martyn (1812): Evangelist*

18 **Luke, Evangelist**

27 *Frumentius, of Ethiopia (about 380): Evangelist*

28 **Simon and Jude: Apostles**

#### November

01 **All Saints**



**Messages from the Pulpit****7<sup>th</sup> September 2025****1<sup>st</sup> reading—Ezekiel 3:16-21****2nd reading—Acts 20:28-32****Theme: 'The watchfulness required in the church today'****Message by Rev. Dr. Kenseelan Azariah**

Being watchful is not just being prepared but also to prepare others. We must know that a responsibility is given to every Christian to preach the good news and also to alert the people of rejecting the message of the Gospel ("Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me" Ezekiel 3:17. The message of John 3:16 must be made known to the lost souls of the world, including our own. The church must be watchful of these three things as we stand in faith in God---\* False teaching ---Matthew 7:15 teaches us to be careful of these "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves". Therefore, study the word of God yourself. \*Temptations of this world—James 4:4 rightly says "You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God". Walk circumspectly and watch and pray always. \* Bitterness—Hebrews 12:15 -- 'See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled'.

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2025****1<sup>st</sup> reading – Numbers 14:1-10****2<sup>nd</sup> reading – Luke 13:10-17****Theme: 'God has called us to be free'****Message by Dr. Stanley Jones**

When the people of Israel were in bondage of Pharaoh in Egypt or during the times of the Judges or during the times of the exile to Babylon, God

has always delivered them. He never left them remain in chains and suffering. He acted on their behalf. During the great exodus from Egypt, God showed them mighty signs that HE is fighting for them, for their freedom and to make them as a nation. HE gave them a new identity and a new life. In the same way when humanity fell into sin in the garden of Eden, God did not abandon us. He sent HIS only Son to rescue us from the bondage of sin. Yet we underestimate the value of this freedom, and tend to lean towards going back to our old lives. Just as the Israelites who grumbled and complained in the wilderness and tested God, continued to live a life of disbelief even after witnessing the Mighty hand of God continuously, we too behave the same way. The Israelites desired the food (Onions and Garlic) of the Egyptians and despised Manna-the angelic food. They were wanting to go back to the land of slavery and misery and did not trust the plans that God had for them. Certain hindrances that keep us out of the freedom that God gives us----\*the fear of the unknown: many times, we miss God's blessing because we fear stepping into the unknown. Faith and freedom go hand in hand. \*The forgetfulness of God's power. \*Rebellion against God. In Jesus we are no more slaves but are sons and daughters of God. He has delivered us and has promised to be with us. This is our identity as HIS new creation, washed and purified and set free from death in Jesus Christ. Step out of fear and walk in the faith of God's promise.

## **21<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading- Isaiah 33: 13-17**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading- 1John 2:15-17**

**Theme: St Matthew's Day**

**Message by Rev. Kenseelan Azariah**

The tax collectors were considered as unclean, outcast and sinners as they worked for the oppressing government (the Romans in Matthew's case.) When Jesus called Matthew, he did not ask questions but just

followed Christ. Even though he was rejected by his community, he was loved and accepted by Jesus Christ. The Bible says we cannot love this world if we are followers of Christ. Indeed, Matthew left his everything including his highly paid job, comfort and luxury for Christ's sake. Most of today's Christians just attend church, take part in the holy communion and go back to their old life and few are running ministries trying to change others. But the question we need to ask is that- "Do we share an intimate relationship with God?" Matthew never looked back in his walk with the Lord as he took his calling personal, so did the other disciples.

### **28<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading— Joshua 24:14-24**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading—1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 3:1-8**

**Theme: "Cost of Discipleship"**

**Message by Rev. Mithra**

Do not concentrate on the familial love and do not prioritise the people in your life (family and friends) but love God with all your strength, life, mind and soul and this is what Jesus asks for. We are witnesses to ourselves for committing ourselves to love God first yet we fail to keep the commitment. Come what may, stand firm for the mission and purpose God called you for. Ruth was a gentile woman who followed Naomi, no matter what she had gone through, she remained faithful. We will pay the price for the failure of the commitment to God and His purpose. Most of us are extremely casual about God's grace and do not have any intimate relationship with HIM. He who does not carry his cross and follow Christ, cannot be his disciple. If we belong to the Lord, we should serve HIM and HIM alone. Stand firm for the truth of the Word of God.

*(Gist of the Sermons are compiled by Mrs. Milka Khanapur)*

### **Church Sunday Worship Service Schedule**

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>
<b>12-October-2025</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	
	<b>Theme – Common sense as well as devotion are needed for God's service.</b>	
8:00 AM The Lord's Supper	Old Testament – 2 Kings 5: 19b – 27	Ms Veronica Bhalerao
	Epistle – 1 Tim.: 6: 6 – 12, 17 – 19	Mr John Mani
	Gospel – Luke 16: 1 – 12	Presbyter
	Element Bearers	Dr Mahindra & Dr Geeta Chitre
6:00 PM Eve Worship	<b>Theme – Common sense as well as devotion are needed for God's service.</b>	
<b>19-October-2025</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	
	<b>Theme – True compassion is based on justice.</b>	
8:00 AM The Lord's Supper	Old Testament – Amos 8: 4 – 10	Ms Shela Thomas
	Psalm – 82	Lay Leader
	Epistle – 1 John 3: 14 – 18	Mrs Golda Chelliah
	Gospel – Luke 16: 19 – 31	Presbyter
	Element Bearers	Dr Sanjay & Mrs Archana Christian
6:00 PM The Lord's supper	<b>Theme – True compassion is based on justice.</b>	
<b>26-October-2025</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Reformation Sunday</b>	
8:00 AM The Lord's Supper	Old Testament – 2 Kings 23: 1 – 9	Mr Manish Kolhatkar
	Epistle – Romans 11: 1 – 6	Mr Sandeep Daniel
	Gospel – Luke 11: 33 – end	Presbyter
	Element Bearers	Mr Sunil & Mrs Abha Christian
6:00 PM Eve Worship		
<b>02-November-2025</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Commemoration of the Faithful Departed</b>	
	<b>Theme – Our fellowship in Christ with the faithful departed.</b>	
8:00 AM The Lord's Supper	Old Testament – Isaiah 25: 6 – 9	Ms Sanika Mohite
	Psalm 118: 14 – 15, 17 – 21	Lay Leader
	Epistle – 2 Cor. 5: 1 – 10	Mr Denzil Halli
	Gospel – John 11: 21 – 27	Presbyter
	Element Bearers	Mr Sanjeev & Mrs Pearl Daniels
6:00 PM The Lord's Supper	<b>Theme – Our fellowship in Christ with the faithful departed.</b>	



**Birthdays– (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of October'25 to 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of November'25)**

<b>Birthdays in October</b>			
<b>05</b>	Mrs. Coralie James	<b>20</b>	Mrs. Anupama Kank
	Mrs. Sujata Mallic Kumar		Mrs. Prajakta Shirshetty
<b>06</b>	Lilyann Madhu	<b>21</b>	Mr. Timothy Ponrathnam
<b>07</b>	Ms. Veronica Bhalerao		Mr. Ravindra Sable
<b>08</b>	Reneesha Parekh		Grace Kurian
<b>09</b>	Dr. Aharon Bansode	<b>22</b>	Faith Waghlikar
<b>10</b>	Isabel Williams		Christian Bhite
	Mr. Aswin Gunasekaran	<b>23</b>	Mr. Clarion Smith
<b>11</b>	Mr. John Mani	<b>24</b>	Mr. Sean Salins
	Lt. Col. Santosh Alfred		Mr. Samuel Bhite
	Mrs. Jennifer James		Apeksha David
	Mr. Anil Williams		Mr. Daniel Bell
	Mr. Hemchandra Hiwale		Mrs. Kakuli Suren
<b>12</b>	Ms. Sheila Thomas		Mrs. Deepshikha Samuel
	Mrs. Salome Samuel	<b>25</b>	Mrs. Sonia Jadhav
<b>13</b>	Mrs. Mohana Charles		Eli Madhok
	Mrs. Golda Chelliah		Jeremy Aruldas
	Aahana Gill	<b>26</b>	Mr. Percival Aikin
	Rahul Mekala		Mr. Denzil Halli
<b>14</b>	Mr. Rohit Jadhav		Mr. Rohit Salvi
	Mrs. Indira Balachandran	<b>27</b>	Mr. Ravindra Adhav
	Kevin James		Azriel Shantwan
	Sarah Paranjape		Mr. Abhishek Laxman
<b>15</b>	Ms. Devika James	<b>28</b>	Mr. Darryl Pounce
	Mrs. Vijaya Rathod		Ms. Sanika Mohite
	Mrs. Richa Bhalerao		Mrs. Evelyn Singh
<b>16</b>	Ms. Anisha Pandhare		Mr. Shaun Donald George
	Mr. Manish Kolhatkar	<b>29</b>	Mr. Alex Pawar
	Mrs. Hilda Korabandi		Mrs. Neelima Gaikwad
<b>17</b>	Ivan Johnson	<b>30</b>	Col. Mark Aaron Pillay VSM (Retd.)
	Mr. Sandeep Daniel		Mrs. N Shilhi Gnanaraj
	Mrs. Priya Rogers		Mr. Rajiv Adhav
	Mrs. Subhashree Katyarkar	<b>31</b>	Mrs. Rohini Madan
<b>18</b>	Mrs. Pearl Daniels		Mr. Abhay Chavan
	Dr. (Mrs.) Swati Mohite		Mrs. Jayashree Chavan
<b>19</b>	Mr. Rajeev Jadhav	<b>Birthdays in November'25</b>	
	Mrs. Jemima De Souza	<b>01</b>	Mrs. Leena Eden

**Wedding Anniversaries**  
**(1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of October' 2025 to 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of November' 2025)**

<b>Anniversaries in October</b>	
06	Mrs. Jyothi & Mr. Henry Khisty
08	Mrs. Irene & Mr. John Smith
09	Mrs. Anita & Lt Gen Noble Thamburaj Mrs. Tuhina & Mr. Adit Maark Yvon
10	Mrs. Asha & Mr. Abhishek Bansode
14	Mrs. Evelyn & Mr. Jabez Singh Mrs. Sunalini & Mr. Eugene Bankapur Mrs. Madhu & Mr. Vinod Massey
17	Mrs. Christabel & Mr. John Vergis
18	Mrs. Nalini & Mr. Ronald Singavarapu
19	Mrs. Mayura & Mr. Ramesh Rao
20	Mrs. Daphne & Mr. Anil Bhalerao
21	Mrs. Vera & Mr. Walter Tresslor Mrs. Melissa & Mr. Waseem Khan Mrs. N Shilhi & Mr. Neelwin Gnanaraj D Mrs. Chaitanya Pamaleela Halli & Mr. Denzil Halli
24	Mrs. Natasha & Mr. Oswin Samuel
25	Mrs. Alpna & Mr. Sandeep Sampson Mrs. Neetika & Mr. Ashish Gaikwad
26	Mrs. Smita & Mr. Reuben Umap
27	Mrs. Sharon & Mr. Harshvardhan Peter Mrs. Soniya & Mr. Raju Mudliar
28	Mrs. Joyce & Mr. Victor Kashyap
30	Mrs. Ankita & Mr. Gaurav Swarge Mr. Vivian & Mrs. Surbhi Kedari

**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)



**We extend our heartfelt thanks to the outgoing editorial team of the *Hosanna* newsletter — your sincere efforts, creativity, and dedication have blessed our church community with meaningful reflections, timely updates, and a spirit of connection. Your work has been a true ministry of communication and encouragement.**

**As we welcome the newly selected editorial team for the upcoming three-year term, we offer our best wishes and prayers.**

**May your service be guided by wisdom, joy, and a deep sense of purpose as you continue this important work of sharing the life and witness of our church.**

***“Let all that you do be done in love.” – 1 Corinthians 16:14***

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

**Other Activities**

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

**MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM THE CHURCH OFFICE THROUGH A REVISED MEMBERSHIP FORM 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.**

**Post wedding change in name (Ms./Mrs., middle or last name is changed) to be notified via membership form to church office!**

## CHILDREN'S C O R N E R

Have you ever felt too small or too ordinary to make a difference? That was exactly how Gideon felt when God called him to lead the Israelites. The Midianites were oppressing Israel, taking crops, and leaving the people in fear.



Gideon was hiding, thinking he could not do anything to help. But God appeared to him through an angel and said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior” (Judges 6:12). Even though Gideon doubted himself, God had a plan to use him to deliver His people. Gideon asked for signs to make sure it was really God speaking to him. He prepared a fleece and asked God to make it wet with dew while keeping the ground dry, and then the opposite the next day. God faithfully answered both times, showing Gideon that He was in control and that Gideon could trust Him completely (Judges 6:36-40).



When the time came to face the Midianites, Gideon's army was very large at first, but God told him to reduce it. He wanted to show that the victory would come from God's power, not human strength. In the end, Gideon took only 300 men and defeated a massive army using clever strategy and God's guidance (Judges 7:19-22).



This story reminds us that God can use anyone, no matter how ordinary they feel, and that faith in Him leads to victory over fear and obstacles.

**1. God can use anyone, even someone who feels small or unimportant.**

Gideon did not see himself as a leader. He was hiding from the enemy and doubting his abilities. God chose him anyway. This reminds us that God looks at the heart, not outward appearances, and He can work through anyone who is willing to trust Him.

**2. Trusting God gives courage to face difficult situations.** Gideon was afraid of the Midianites and unsure of his own strength. By trusting God, he gained the courage to lead the Israelites into battle. When we trust God, we can face challenges with confidence because we know He is with us.

**3. God's help is stronger than numbers or human strength.** Even though Gideon had only 300 men, they defeated a massive army. God wants us to rely on Him, not just on our abilities or resources. When we let God guide us, what seems impossible becomes possible.

**4. Listening to God and following His guidance is important.** Gideon followed God's instructions carefully, from the signs with the fleece to the battle plan. This teaches us that God's guidance matters. When we listen and obey Him, we experience His wisdom and protection.

**5. Faith can overcome fear when we rely on God's plan.** Gideon's fear was real, but his faith in God allowed him to act despite it. Our fears may not disappear, but faith helps us move forward with confidence, knowing God is in control.

**-By Neeta Victor**

## **St. Paul's Church (CNI), Pune**

### **Family Retreat Report – 29 to 31 May 2025 | Lonavala**

#### **Theme: “Love One Another” – Leviticus 19:18**

#### **Overview**

The Family Retreat of St. Paul's Church (CNI), Pune, held at Lonavala from May 29–31, 2025, brought together nearly 70 members across generations for three days of spiritual nourishment, fellowship, and reflection. Anchored on the theme “Love One Another,” the retreat blended powerful scriptural teaching, lively group activities, worship, fellowship and community building.

#### **Teaching & Devotion**

The retreat featured deep and transformative teaching sessions from:

Rt. Rev. Silvans Christian, Bishop of Gujarat, who led six key sessions:

1. The Blessings of the First Family – Highlighted the original blessings given to humanity: fellowship, stewardship, and calling.
2. Roadmap to Deliverance – Drew from Bartimaeus' story to show the power of persistence and healing through faith in Jesus Christ.
3. "Yes, My Lord" – Reflected on Peter's calling and how surrendering to Christ unlocks transformation and purpose.
4. Love Unleashes Divine Power – Showed how love is the driving force behind God's miraculous work.
5. Love Unlocks Destiny – Explained how love reclaims, realigns, and reactivates our purpose in Christ.
6. Radical Love of Jesus – Illustrated the life-altering, boundary-breaking compassion of Christ that heals, forgives, and restores.

Rev. Dr. Kenseelan, who led daily morning devotions focused on the barriers to love:

o Pride – A silent barrier that replaces humility with self-centeredness.



- o Unforgiveness – Blocks healing and keeps us chained to bitterness.
- o Comparison – Breeds envy and steals joy, damaging relationships.

These sessions called the church toward humility, healing, and mutual celebration.

Bro. Paritosh Bhalerao, whose scripturally grounded sessions explored:

- o The centrality of love in the Law, the Prophets, and the teachings of Christ.
- o Love as the spark that unleashes divine power and aligns us with God's eternal plan.
- o A prophetic call to respond to divine love with full surrender and action.

### **Intercessory Prayer Time :**

Participants gathered in groups for a focused time of intercession, covering global conflicts, our nation, the Church of North India (CNI), and our church. Hearts were united in prayer for peace, righteous leadership, spiritual revival, and God's continued guidance and provision for our congregation and its ministries.

### **Engagement & Fellowship**

The retreat was not just about listening; it was alive with participation and joyful connection:

Evening Games organized by S. D. Rajkumar were a highlight for the youth and the young at heart, sparking laughter and bonding across age groups.

Post-Dinner Group Activities led by Rohit Bell and family brought the congregation together in fun-filled, meaningful interactions that created memories and reinforced unity.

## **Vision & Commitments Going Forward**

The retreat stirred not only inspiration but a strong desire for tangible ministry action. The group discussions led to emanate some reactions from the groups and some points have been submitted as part of the report for consideration by the Pastor and Pastorate Committee:

### **1. Youth Ministry**

Life Skill Sessions - Continue practical, values-based training for youth. Invite participants from other CNI churches to build inter-church fellowship.

Contemporary Service (2nd Sunday) - Reintroduce modern worship services to foster creative and spiritual engagement among youth.

SPYF Sunday (4th Sunday) - Dedicate the fourth Sunday each month to youth-led services under the SPYF banner. Currently it's on Fifth Sunday that the youth participate actively in the conduct of church service.

Youth Outreach - Actively connect with disconnected or hesitant youth.

- o Identify & Reach Out: Map members area-wise for focused engagement.

- o House Visits: Organize visits with YF seniors; involve the Pastor and elders

### **2. Outreach Initiatives**

Feeding Ministry - Expand to three sessions per week to support the underprivileged.

Prayer Request Box -Set up a confidential system for members to share prayer needs.

Inclusive Programs - Plan seasonal events welcoming non-Christians, e.g., a special Christmas evening alongside the Christmas Tree program.

### **3. Wings of the Church**

Set Clear Objectives - Each ministry wing to define actionable goals under the Pastor's guidance.

### **4. Altar Girls**

Inclusive Participation - Introduce girls as altar servers to promote greater inclusivity in worship.

### **5. Bible Study Weekly Sessions** (Leaders Identified; Announcements to be made)

Resume Tuesday or area-based Bible study groups to encourage scriptural engagement.

### **6. Children's Bible Program**

Launch a VBS-style initiative during school holidays for children from CNI churches.

These recommendations form a roadmap for sustained spiritual growth, youth revival, and broader community impact, aligned with the retreat's call to "Love One Another."

### **Participant feedback analysis**

High satisfaction across all areas, especially engagement, fellowship, and relevance of teachings.

A strong presence of adults aged 51–70 with suggestions for increased youth engagement and intergenerational mix.

Deep appreciation for the worship, biblical teaching, and the warmth of the community.

**Constructive suggestions:**

- o Extending retreat duration
- o More interactive sessions
- o Improved accommodation logistics and timing coordination

**Acknowledgements**

With hearts full of gratitude, we thank:

Our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kenseelan, for his visionary leadership and faithful guidance.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Silvans Christian and Bro. Paritosh Bhalerao for their spirit-filled and scripturally rich teaching.

The Pastorate Committee for their support and leadership.

And the silent heroes, the committed volunteers and organizers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes for months to ensure the success of this retreat.

“Love will unlock what fear tried to bury. Step out, and purpose will rise.”

– Prophetic Declaration from Session 3

Let this retreat not just be a cherished memory, but a movement of love in action, purpose awakened, and community transformed in Christ.

Family Retreat Report Compiled by SD Rajkumar with inputs from Susan S.K. and Rohit Bell

**(As decided by the Pastorate Committee, suitable excerpts from the submitted Family retreat report have been included in *Hosanna*, the official newsletter of St. Paul's Church (CNI), Pune.)**



*Off we go*



*Praise & Worship*



*Teaching & Devotion*



*Delicious Food*



*Fun & Games*







